

MARVEL

1

THOMPSON
WILLIAMS
VILANOVA
ALBURQUERQUE
ROSENBERG

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE

THE AVENGERS



Cri

CLETUS KASADY WAS A SERIAL KILLER SHARING A CELL IN RYKER'S ISLAND WITH A MAN NAMED EDDIE BROCK, BETTER KNOWN AS VENOM. WHEN THE VENOM SYMBIOTE BROKE EDDIE OUT OF PRISON, IT SPAWNED A NEW SYMBIOTE THAT BONDED WITH KASADY, TURNING HIM INTO THE BLOOD-CRAZED CARNAGE.

MONTHS AGO, CARNAGE TOOK OVER THE SMALL TOWN OF DOVERTON, COLORADO, PROMPTING AN IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION BY SOME OF THE AVENGERS AT THE TIME: CAPTAIN AMERICA, HAWKEYE, WOLVERINE, THE THING AND SPIDER-MAN. DURING THE FIGHT, CARNAGE TOOK CONTROL OF THE AVENGERS MEMBERS, EXCEPT FOR SPIDER-MAN. WITH HELP FROM THE PEOPLE OF DOVERTON, SPIDER-MAN FREED THE TOWN AND THE AVENGERS FROM CARNAGE'S CONTROL.

NOW EMPOWERED BY THE SYMBIOTE GOD KNULL, CARNAGE IS SETTING HIS SIGHTS ON COLLECTING THE CODICES—LITTLE PIECES OF DNA LEFT IN FORMER HOSTS—TO UNLOCK KNULL FROM HIS PRISON. ACROSS THE COUNTRY, CARNAGE AND HIS HORDE ARE HUNTING DOWN ANYONE WHO HAS EVER WORN A SYMBIOTE, INCLUDING THE DOVERTON AVENGERS TEAM...

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE

THE AVENGERS

LEAH WILLIAMS & ZAC THOMPSON PLOT ZAC THOMPSON SCRIPT

ALBERTO ALBURQUERQUE & GUIU VILANOVA ARTISTS

RACHELLE ROSENBERG COLOR ARTIST VC's CORY PETIT LETTERER

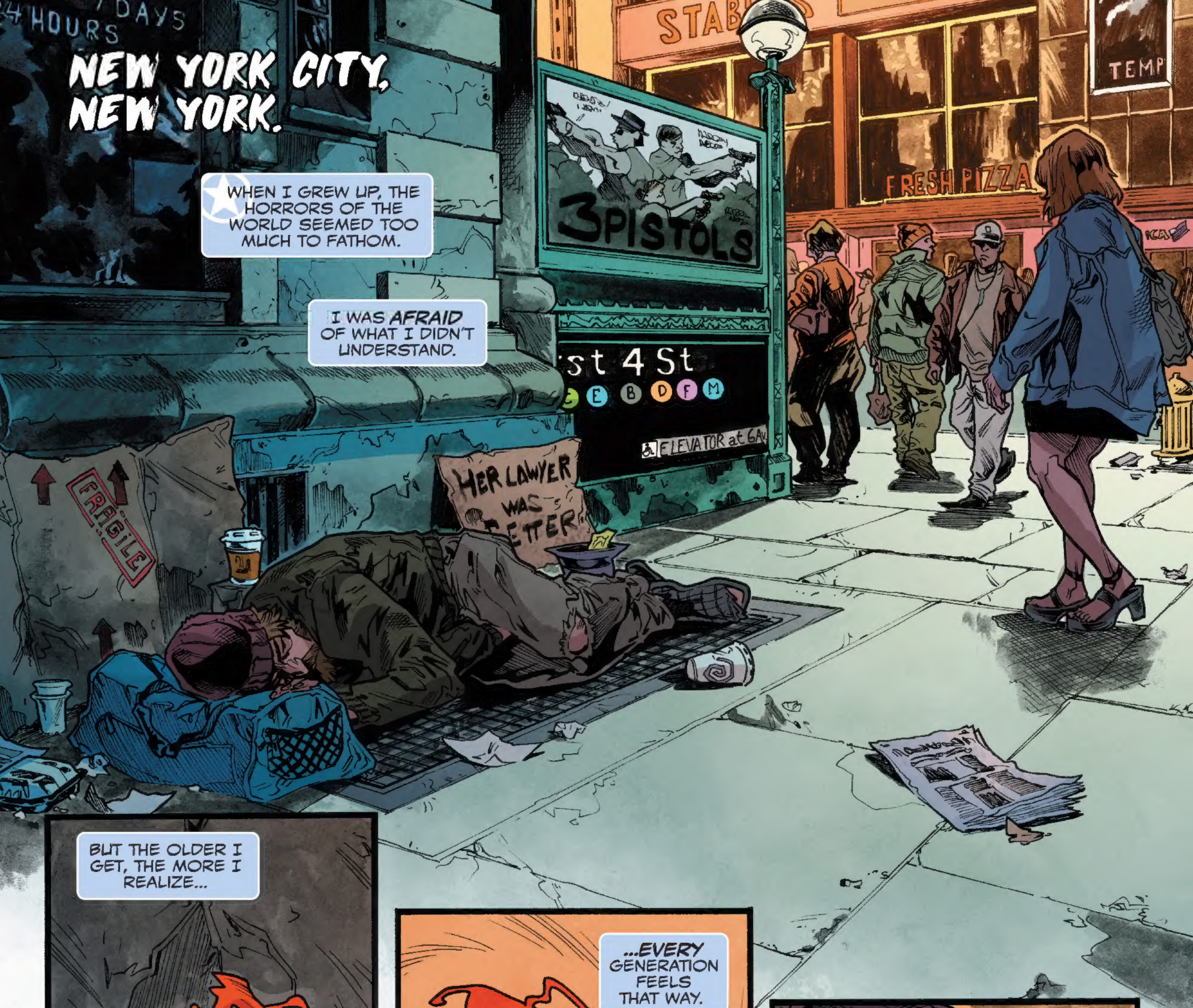
CLAYTON CRAIN COVER ARTISTS

GERARDO SANDOVAL & JASON KEITH [CODEX], JUNGGEUN YOON VARIANT COVER ARTISTS

DANNY KHAZEM ASSISTANT EDITOR DEVIN LEWIS EDITOR NICK LOWE EXECUTIVE EDITOR

C.B. CEBULSKI EDITOR IN CHIEF	JOE QUESADA CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER	DAN BUCKLEY PRESIDENT	ALAN FINE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
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AVENGERS CREATED BY STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY



NEW YORK CITY,
NEW YORK.

WHEN I GREW UP, THE
HORRORS OF THE
WORLD SEEMED TOO
MUCH TO FATHOM.

I WAS AFRAID
OF WHAT I DIDN'T
UNDERSTAND.

BUT THE OLDER I
GET, THE MORE I
REALIZE...



...EVERY
GENERATION
FEELS
THAT WAY.



FEAR OF THE
UNKNOWN IS
TIMELESS.



AND CONFRONTING
REAL TERROR IS LIKE
LOSING YOUR MIND.



IT'S FACING SOMETHING
THAT DEFIES EVERYTHING
YOU STAND FOR...



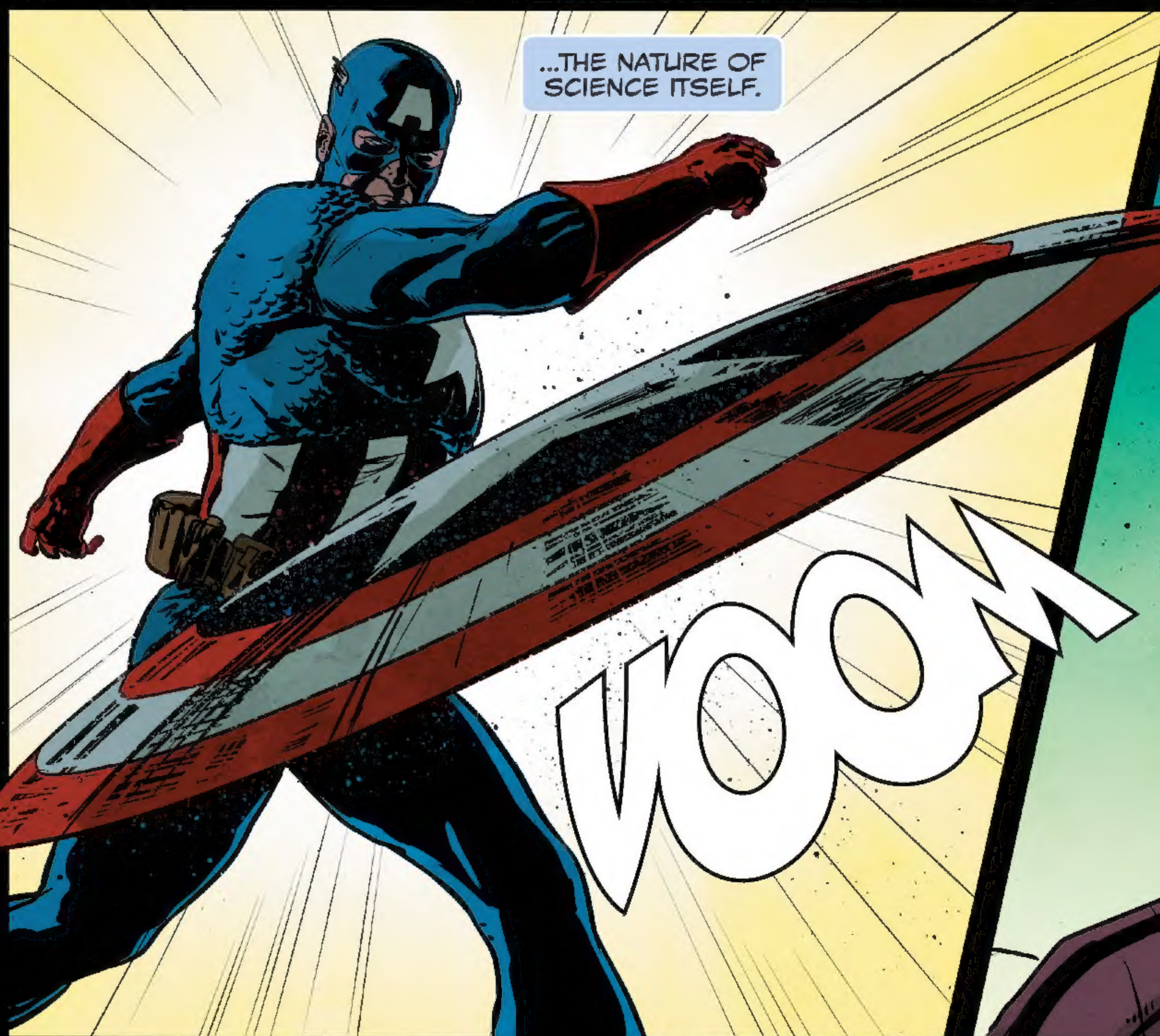
...AND CONFRONTING
THE OUTER LIMITS OF
YOUR IMAGINATION.



STEEEEEEVE...

ROGERSSS...

EVEN IF WHAT YOU FIND AT THE
OTHER END CHALLENGES YOUR
MORALS, THE RULE OF LAW OR...



...THE NATURE OF
SCIENCE ITSELF.

WOO



TRUE BRAVERY MEANS
STANDING IN THE FACE
OF THE THINGS YOU
DON'T UNDERSTAND.



STILL AFRAID BUT
CONFRONTING
THAT FEAR.



AND CONQUERING
THE TERROR THAT
THREATENS TO
OVERTAKE YOU.

TWHACK



THAT'S
NEW...



GOD IS
COMING...

GOD IS
COMING...

GOD IS
COMING...

GOD IS
COMING...



NOTHING
TOUCHES
THAT BEAUTIFUL
JAWLINE!

TWHP



I SEE YOU'VE MET OUR DRIPPY RED BUDDIES, CAP.

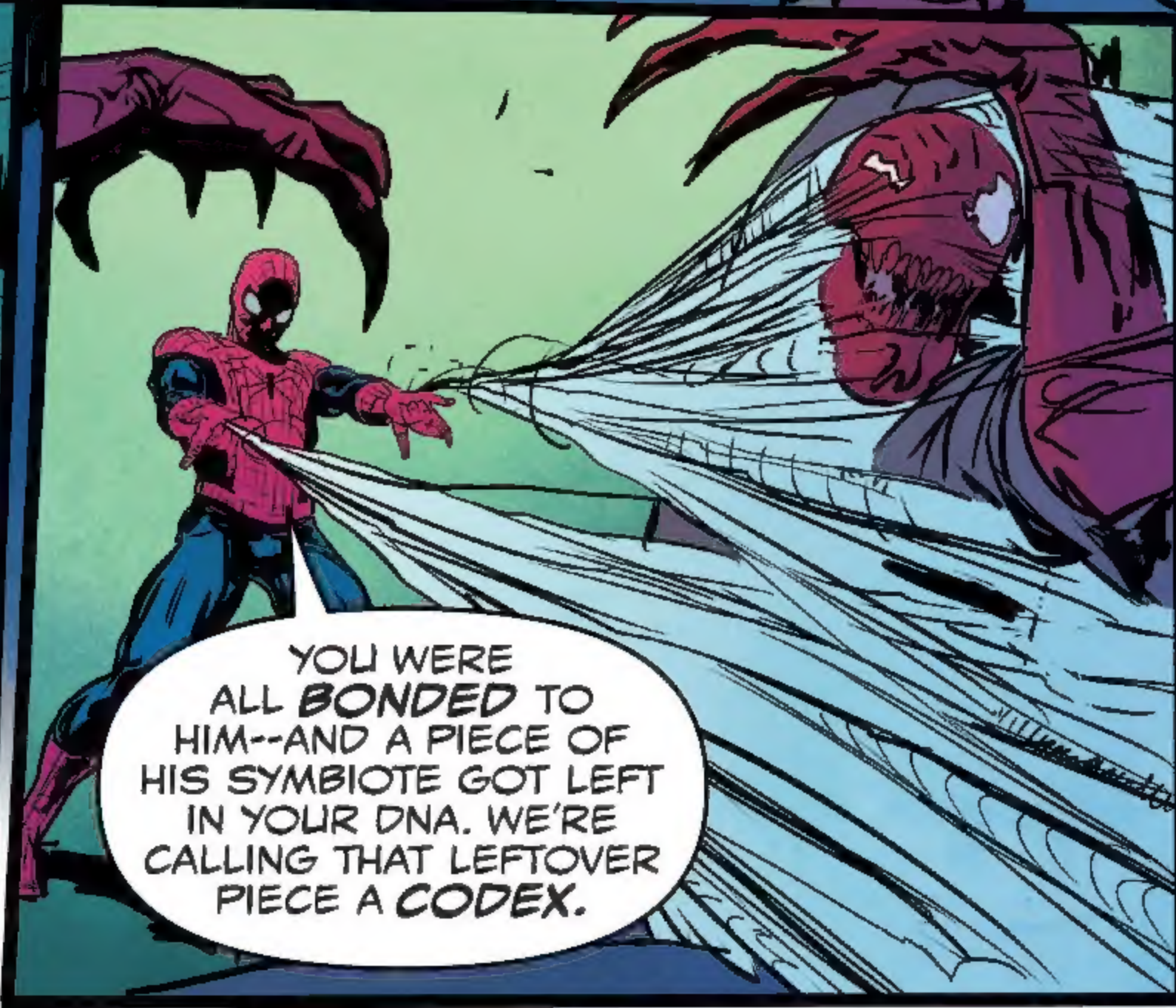
THIS HAS CARNAGE WRITTEN ALL OVER IT BUT WHAT **EXACTLY** IS GOING ON?

HE'S HUNTING ANYONE WHO'S EVER HOSTED A SYMBIOTE.

WHICH MEANS HE'S HUNTING YOU, ME AND ALL OF US WHO WERE IN DOVERTON WHEN HE INFECTED EVERYONE THERE.



I DON'T UNDERSTAND-- WHY IS HE **TARGETING US?**



YOU WERE ALL **BONDED** TO HIM--AND A PIECE OF HIS SYMBIOTE GOT LEFT IN YOUR DNA. WE'RE CALLING THAT LEFTOVER PIECE A **CODEX**.



WHAT'S GOING ON, CAP? IS ANYWHERE SAFE?



THERE'S A POLICE BARRICADE SIX BLOCKS BACK ON BROADWAY.

THEY'VE GOT WATER. FOOD. THEY'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU.



TH-THANK YOU.

I'VE BEEN WORKING WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT-- THEY'RE GOING BLOCK BY BLOCK HELPING EVERYONE THEY COME ACROSS BUT PROGRESS HAS BEEN SLOW.

SO, HOW BAD IS IT? HOW MANY PEOPLE HAS HE TURNED?

THOUSANDS MORE THAN LAST TIME. CARNAGE'S GOTTEN HIS HANDS ON SOME NEW KIND OF SYMBIOTE--THINKS IT'LL MAKE HIM A GOD.

HE STARTED AT RAVENCROFT. BROKE NORMAN OSBORN OUT AND MADE HIM **CARNAGE CLASSIC**. RELEASED THE INMATES FROM MAXIMUM SECURITY TOO AND GAVE THEM ALL PARTS OF HIS SYMBIOTE.

NOW IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S CONVERTING INNOCENT CIVILIANS.

EXACTLY LIKE DOVERTON. HE INFECTED EVERYONE IN THAT CITY-- INCLUDING US.

AND IF HE'S TRYING TO FIND PREVIOUS HOSTS... WE HAVE TO WARN THEM.

CAP, IT'S... IT'S TOO LATE. HE GOT TO DOVERTON WEEKS AGO.

MADE THE WHOLE TOWN SACRIFICE THEMSELVES IN SOME RITUAL TO WHATEVER GOD CLETUS THINKS HIS NEW SYMBIOTE BRINGS HIM CLOSER TO.*

*EDITOR'S NOTE: BACK IN WEB OF VENOM: CULT OF CARNAGE, TRUE BELIEVER! --EDITOR

SO WE GET THE OTHER HEROES. STAY TOGETHER. ENSURE HE HAS TO GO THROUGH ALL OF US TO GET TO ANY ONE OF US. AND WE SAVE AS MANY CIVILIANS AS WE CAN ALONG THE WAY.

WOLVERINE, THE THING AND HAWKEYE. THINK YOU CAN REACH THEM?

VENOM AND I--

VENOM?

HE WANTS CARNAGE STOPPED MORE THAN ANYONE. AND HE'S GOT A MACHINE THAT CAN EXTRACT THE CODICES SAFELY.

GOOD THING WE'RE THE ONLY ONES LOOKING FOR THEM...

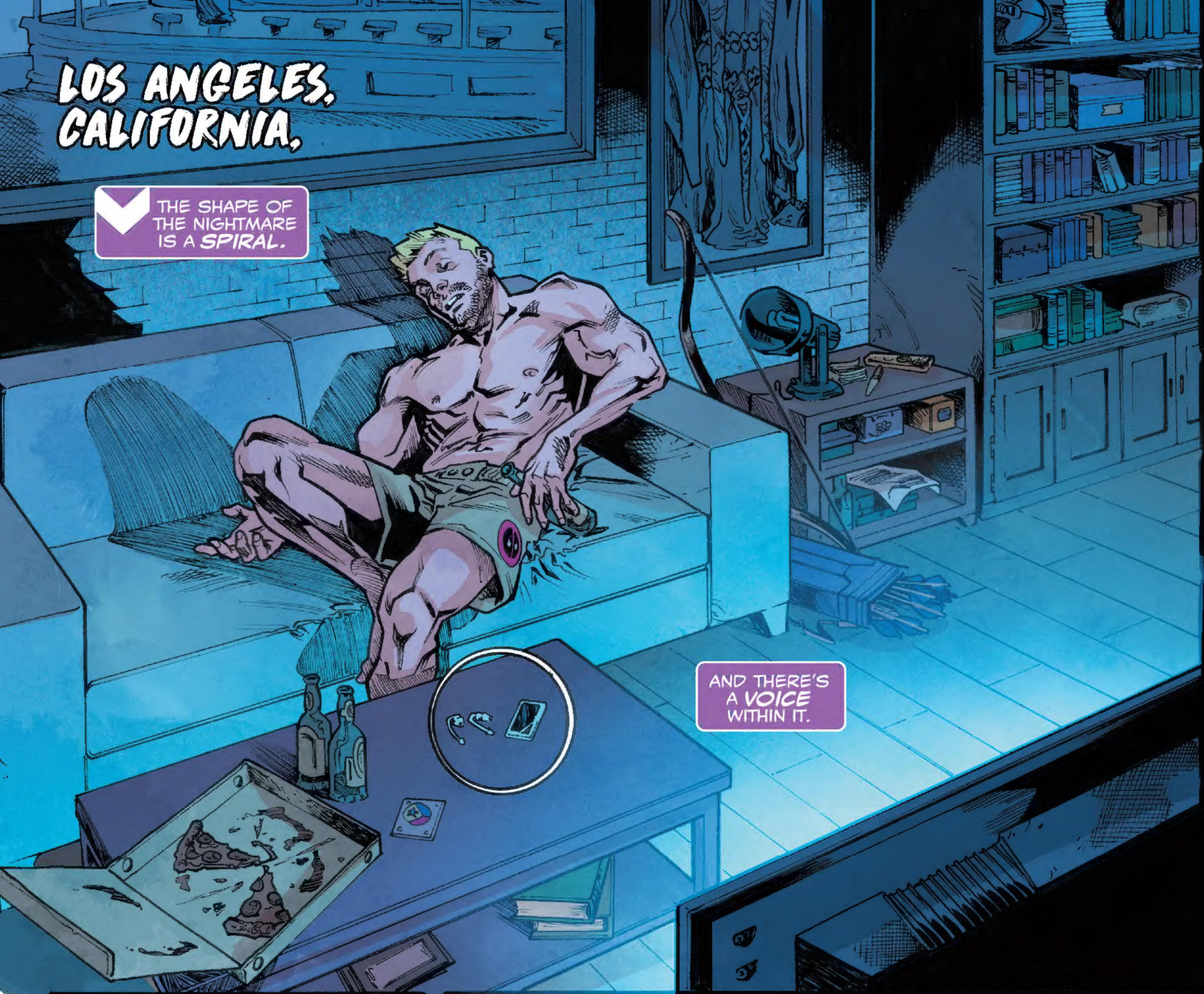
HAWKEYE WILL BE A LITTLE MORE DIFFICULT THAN THE OTHERS.

BUT WOLVERINE SEEMS TO BE A STEP AHEAD OF US.

SNIKT

LOS ANGELES,
CALIFORNIA,

THE SHAPE OF
THE NIGHTMARE
IS A *SPIRAL*.



AND THERE'S
A *VOICE*
WITHIN IT.

EACH WORD IT LITERS
STINGS THE VERTEBRAE
IN MY *SPINE*.

BAAARTOON...

CREEEEAK



BUT I
REFUSE TO
LISTEN.

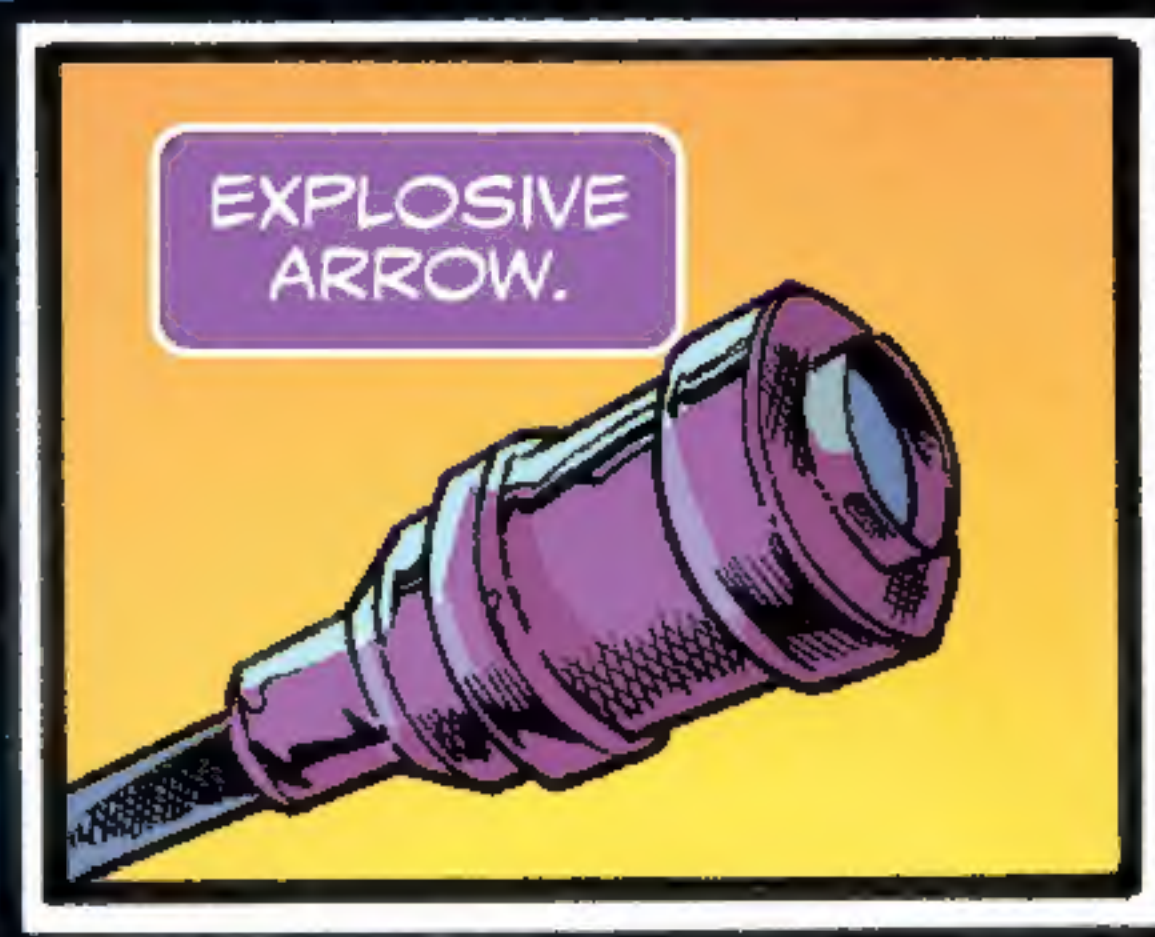
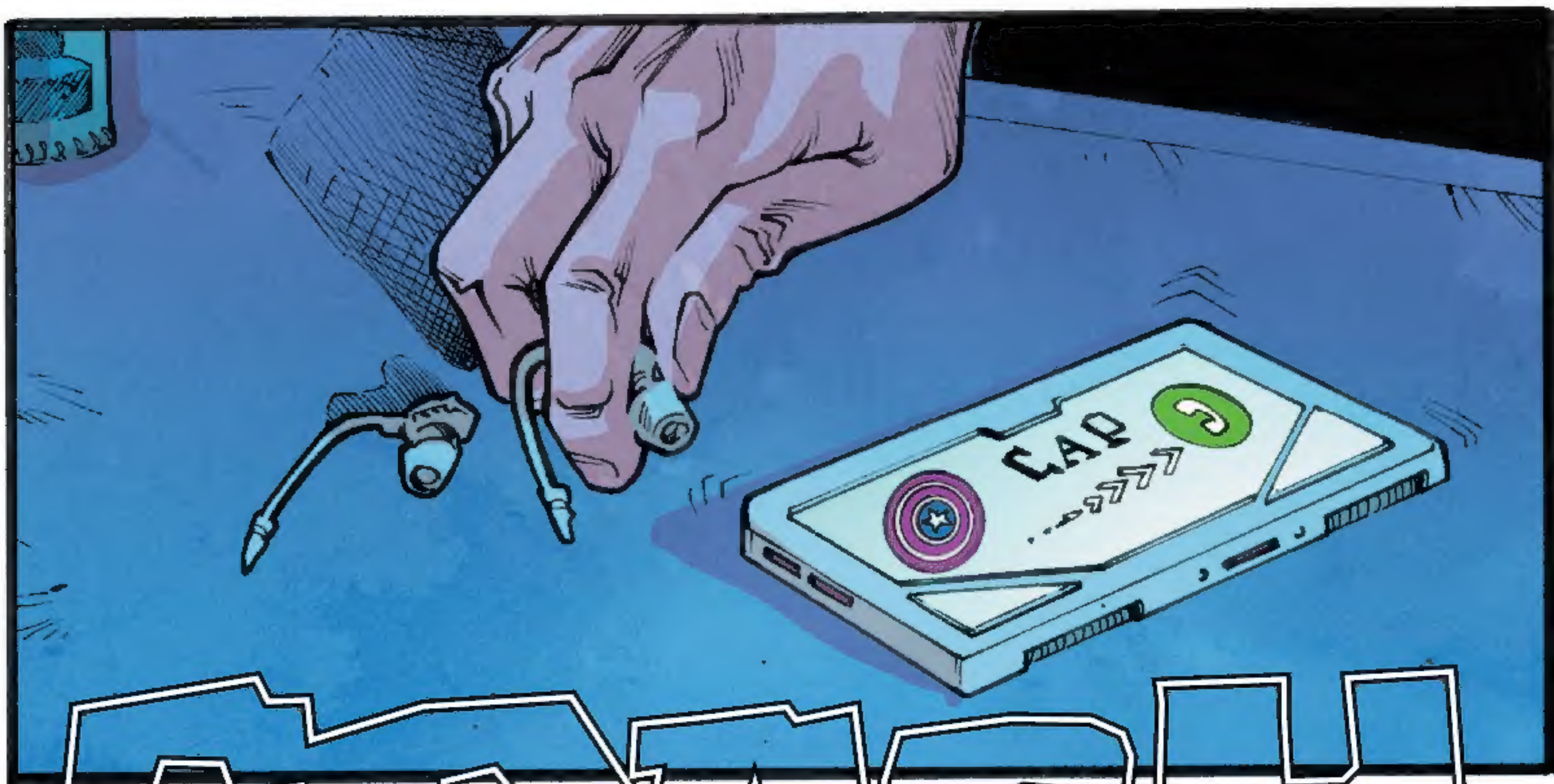


AND YET
I HEAR IT.

TELLING ME,
"GOD IS COMING,
GOD IS COMING."

BAAARRTON!





EXPLOSIVE
ARROW.

NOT MY FIRST
CHOICE, BUT I
JUST WOKE UP.

4 YANCY ST. HOME TO THE FANTASTIC FOUR.

TENANTS
KNOW CARNAGE
IS BACK AND TO KEEP
THEIR DOORS
BOLTED.

S'ALL I
NEED TO KNOW,
MYSELF. LET'S GO
CRUSH KASADY
INTA DUST.

BENJAMIIIIIN
GRIMMMMM...

IT'S NOT THAT EASY. WE'VE GOT
TO STAY AS FAR AWAY FROM
CARNAGE AS POSSIBLE.
REMEMBER DOVERTON?
IT'S LIKE THAT.

OUR PRIORITY IS
TO ENSURE CARNAGE
DOESN'T RETRIEVE THE
CODEX IN EACH OF US
WHILE ALSO KEEPING
THE STREETS SAFE.

I'M LIKIN' THE SENTIMENT,
CAP, BUT THAT STILL DON'T
EXPLAIN WHAT WE'RE GONNA
ACTUALLY DO TA CLEAN UP
THE CITY AN' SAVE
EVERYONE.

HUUURGH

MAYBE
I CAN
HELP.

THUD

THESE...THINGS
ARE ACTIN' LIKE
PACK ANIMALS.

CAUGHT THIS
ONE SNIFFIN'
AROUND
OUTSIDE.

SEEMS LIKE
CARNAGE TURNED
THESE PEOPLE
AND WE ALL KNOW
WHAT HAPPENS TO
YOUR MIND WHEN
CARNAGE IS IN
THERE.

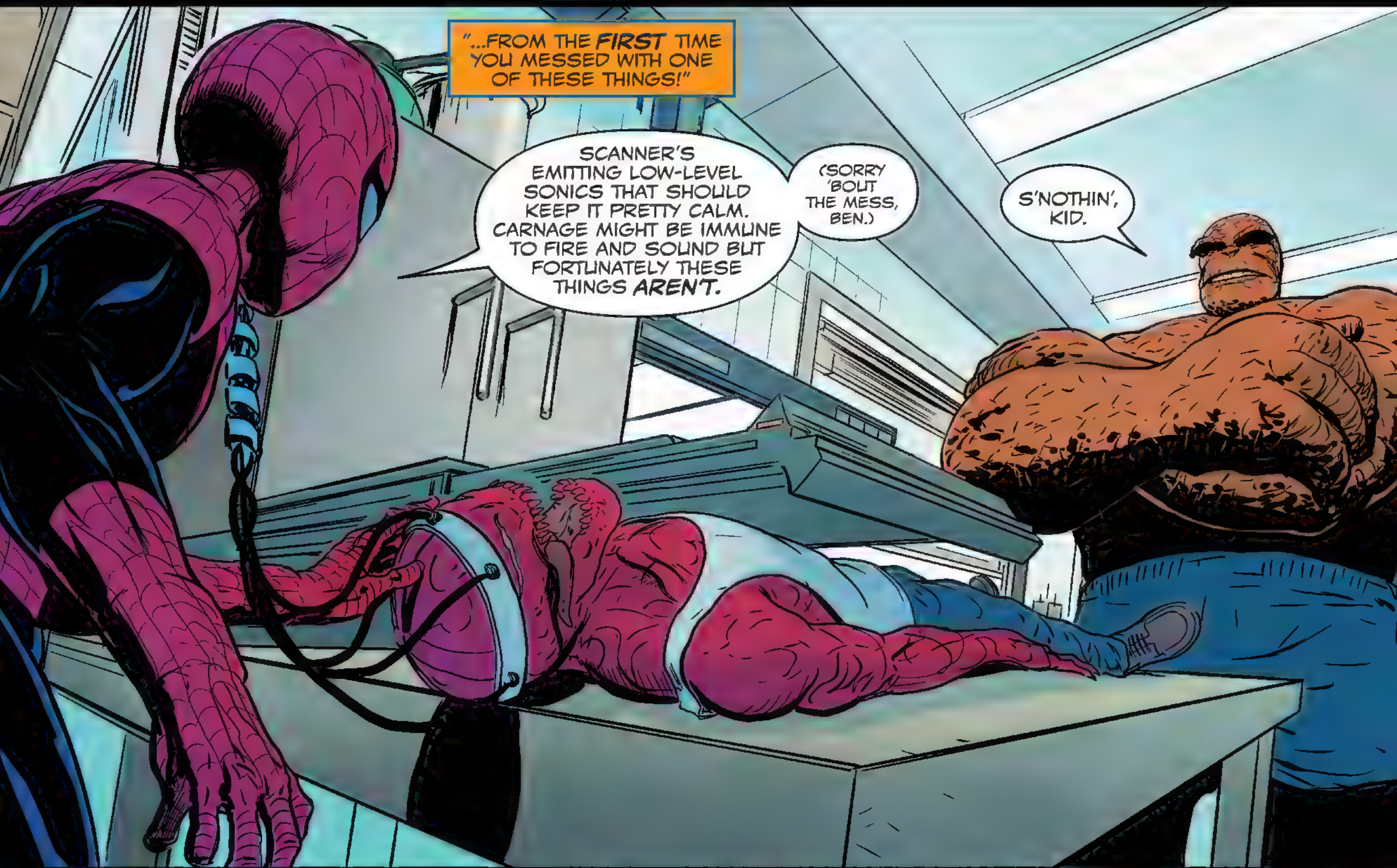
THEY'RE ALL
TAPPED INTO HIM
AND ONE ANOTHER.
WATCHED THIS ONE
AS ITS EAR TWITCHED
LIKE KASADY WAS
SPEAKING TO IT.
THAT **HIVE MIND**
MAKES 'EM
DANGEROUS IN
NUMBERS.

IT'S ALWAYS THE BLOODTHIRSTY
MANIAC WITH A PSYCHIC NETWORK
OF CRAZED DOPPELGANGERS...

BEN, ANYTHING
IN HERE THAT CAN
TELL US MORE ABOUT
HOW THEY'RE TALKING
TO ONE ANOTHER?

HMMM.
STRETCHO'S GOT
LOTSA SCIENCEY JUNK
LYIN' AROUND...

MATTER
O' FACT, I THINK
WE'VE STILL GOT
THE GEAR...

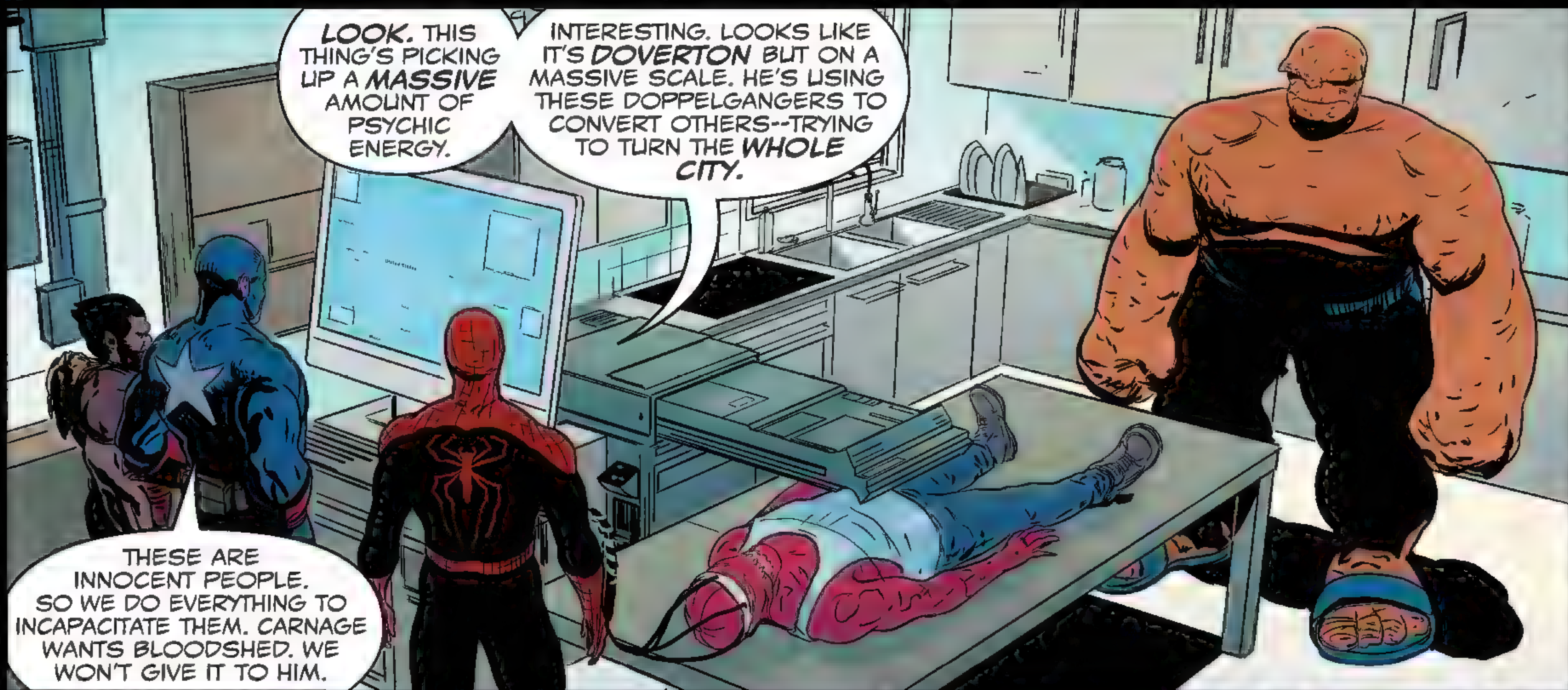


"...FROM THE **FIRST** TIME YOU MESSSED WITH ONE OF THESE THINGS!"

SCANNER'S EMITTING LOW-LEVEL SONICS THAT SHOULD KEEP IT PRETTY CALM. CARNAGE MIGHT BE IMMUNE TO FIRE AND SOUND BUT FORTUNATELY THESE THINGS AREN'T.

(SORRY 'BOUT THE MESS, BEN.)

S'NOTHIN', KID.



LOOK. THIS THING'S PICKING UP A **MASSIVE** AMOUNT OF PSYCHIC ENERGY.

INTERESTING. LOOKS LIKE IT'S **DOVERTON** BUT ON A MASSIVE SCALE. HE'S USING THESE **DOPPELGANGERS** TO CONVERT OTHERS--TRYING TO TURN THE **WHOLE CITY**.

THESE ARE INNOCENT PEOPLE. SO WE DO EVERYTHING TO INCAPACITATE THEM. CARNAGE WANTS BLOODSHED. WE WON'T GIVE IT TO HIM.



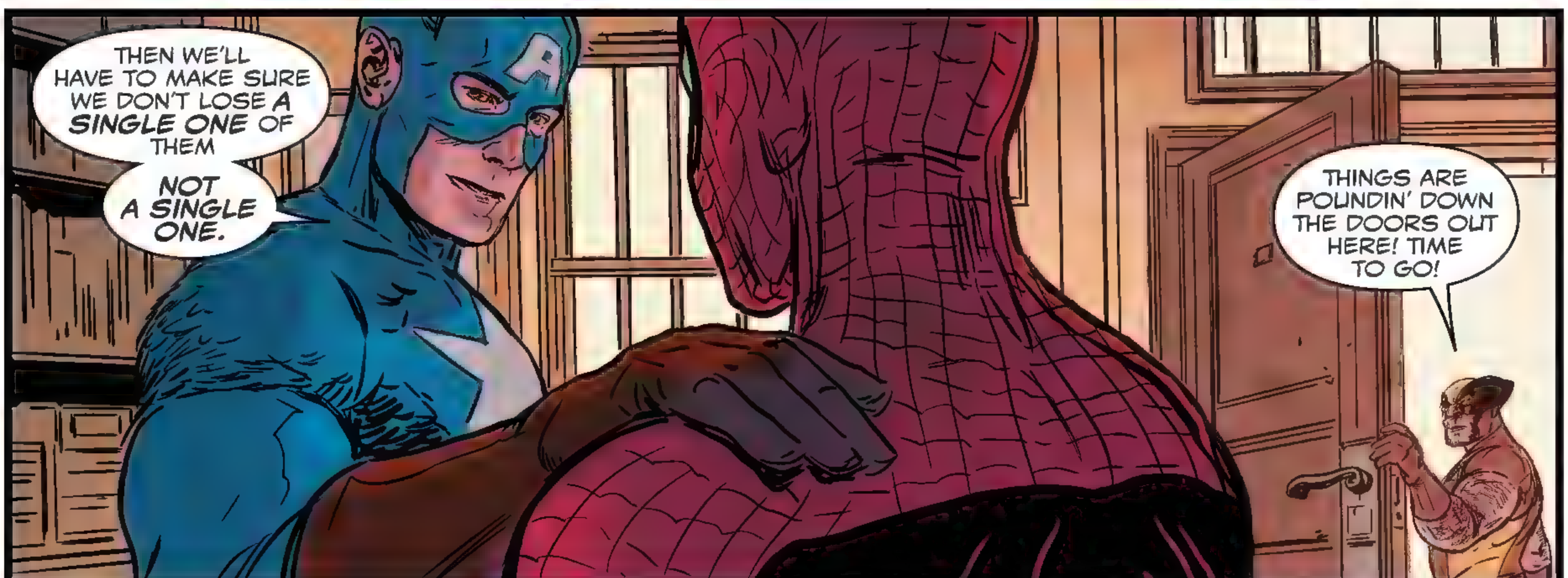
GET A LOAD OF **THIS**.

LOOKS LIKE THERE'S TWO MAIN **BEACONS** FOR WHATEVER PSYCHIC HOLD CARNAGE HAS GOT OVER EVERYONE.

ONE HERE IN NEW YORK CITY AND...



...ANOTHER IN **SAN FRANCISCO**.



MEANWHILE...

OKAY THIS LOOKS BAD

BUT CAPTAIN AMERICA'S CALL IS WORSE SOMEHOW

THE MISSION IS CLEAR

GET TO SAN FRANCISCO

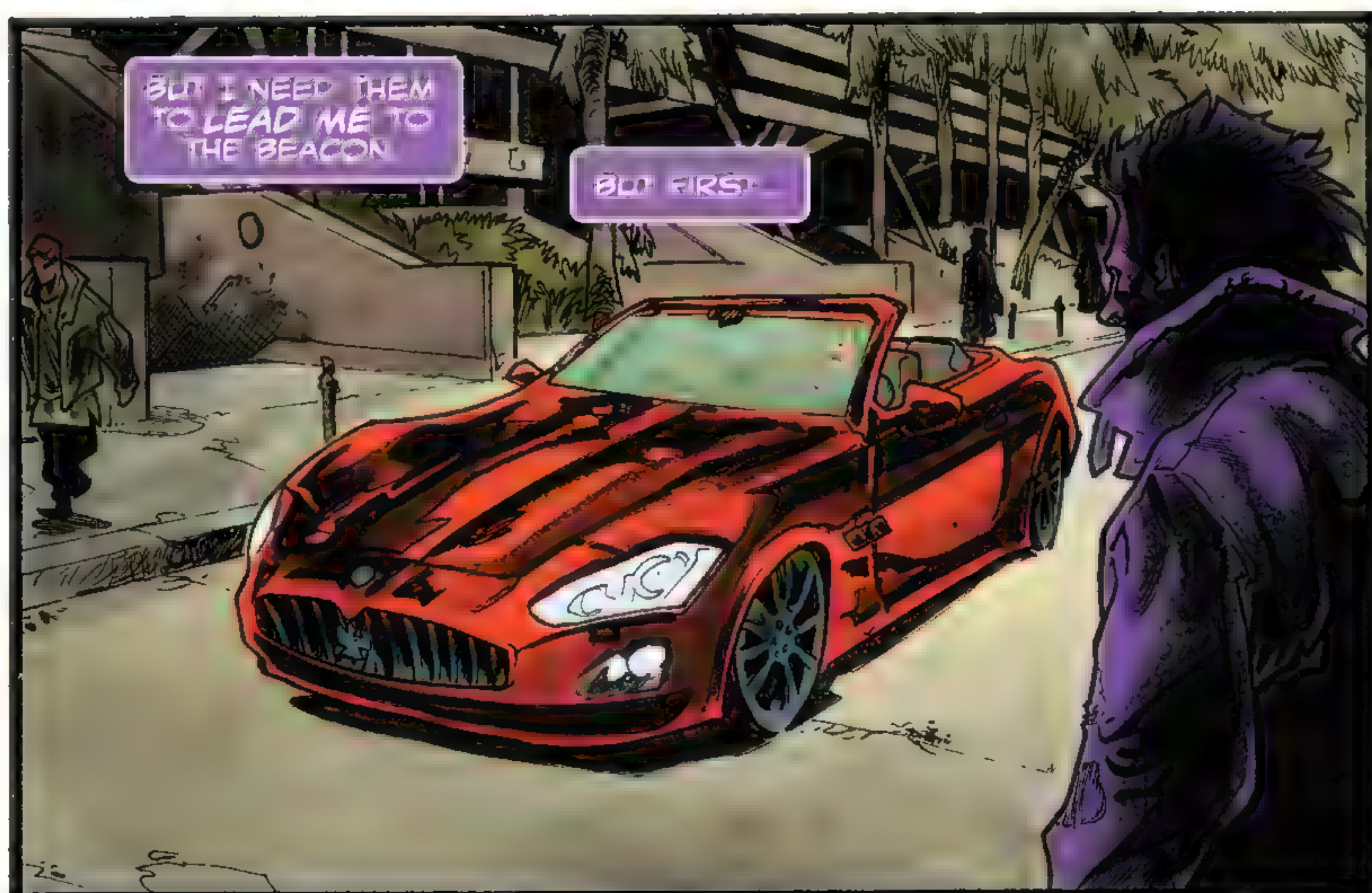
FIND SOME SORT OF SYMBIOTE BEACON. NO VISUAL DESCRIPTION. NO EXACT LOCATION. JUST SOMEWHERE IN THE CITY

NET ARROW. ALWAYS GOOD IN A BIND

AND PARTICULARLY HELPFUL WHEN I'M TRYING TO BE NON-LETHAL

GOT TO BE DISCREET CAUSE I GOT TRACES OF SYMBIOTE IN ME

THEY'RE LOOKING FOR ME



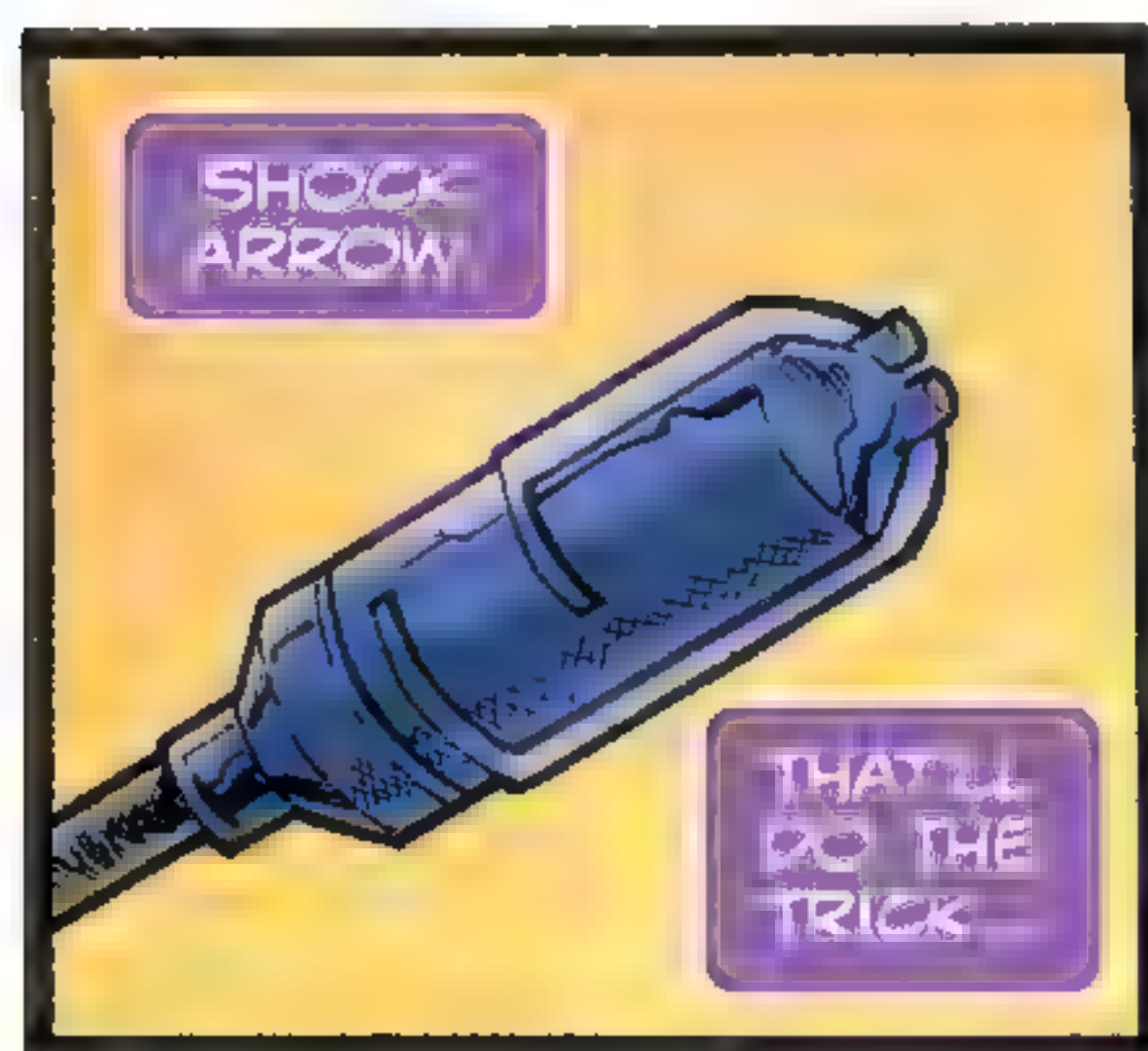
BUT I NEED THEM
TO LEAD ME TO
THE BEACON.

BUT FIRST...



I NEED
A RIDE.

HUUURG



SHOCK
ARROW

THAT'LL
DO THE
TRICK.



HUNK

?



KZAE
KZAE
KZAE

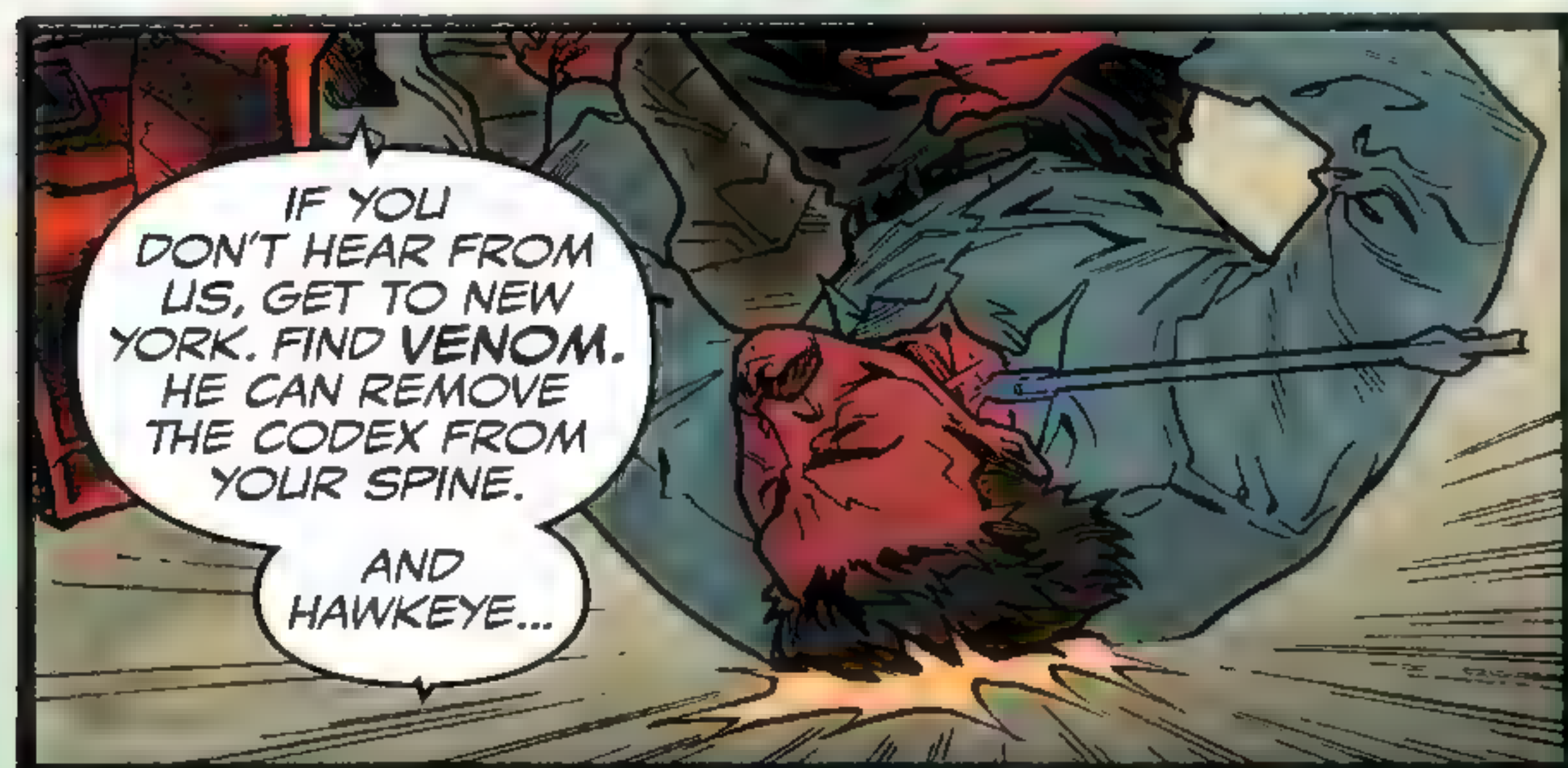
BLURGHGH!



IT'LL BE DONE, CAP. YOU
CAN COUNT ON ME.

JUST SECURED
TRANSPORTATION.

I'LL BE
THERE AS SOON
AS I CAN.



IF YOU
DON'T HEAR FROM
US, GET TO NEW
YORK. FIND VENOM.
HE CAN REMOVE
THE CODEX FROM
YOUR SPINE.

AND
HAWKEYE...

BE
SAFE.

YOU
GOT IT. THE
BEACON'S GOOD
AS DONE.

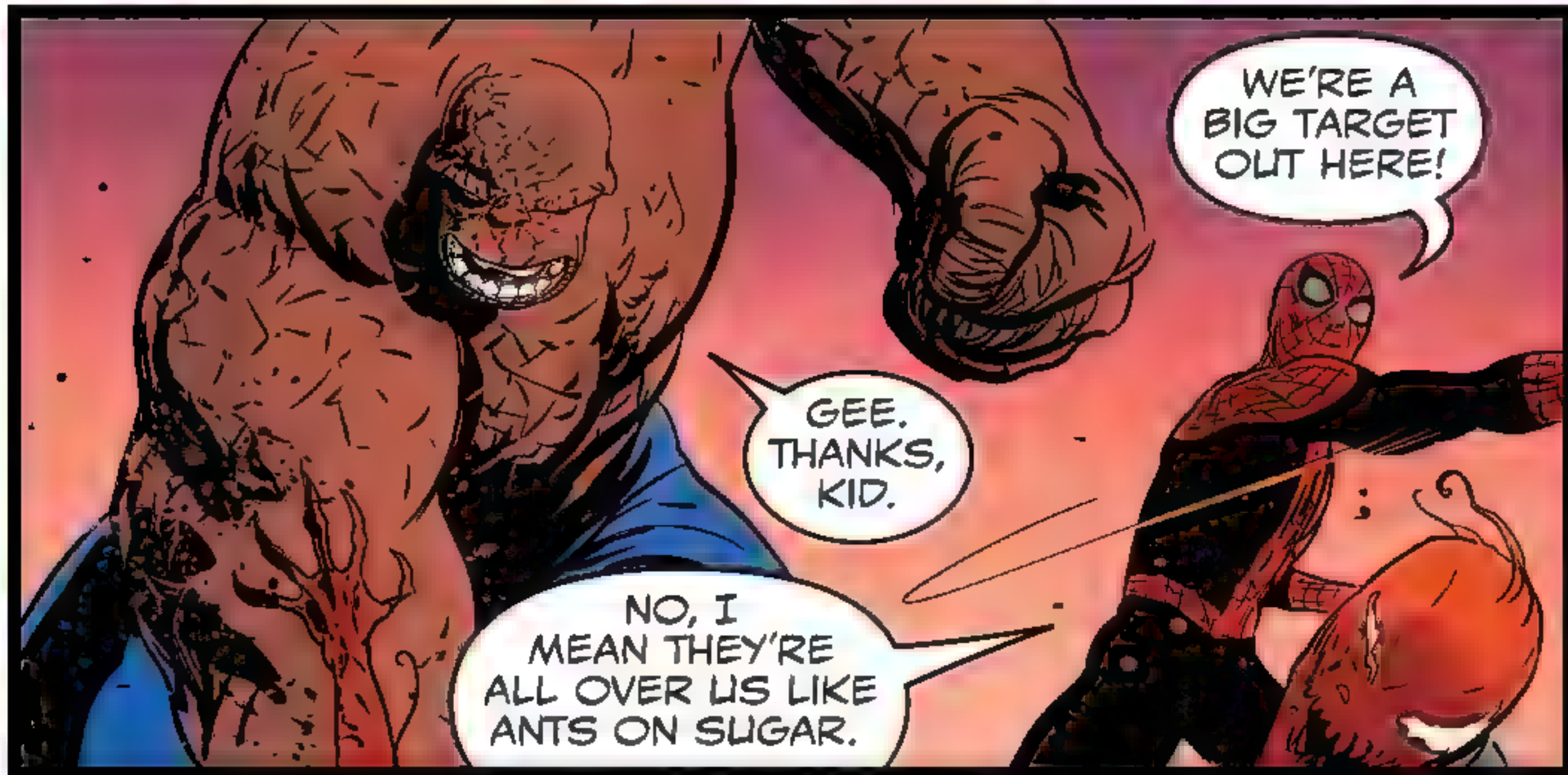
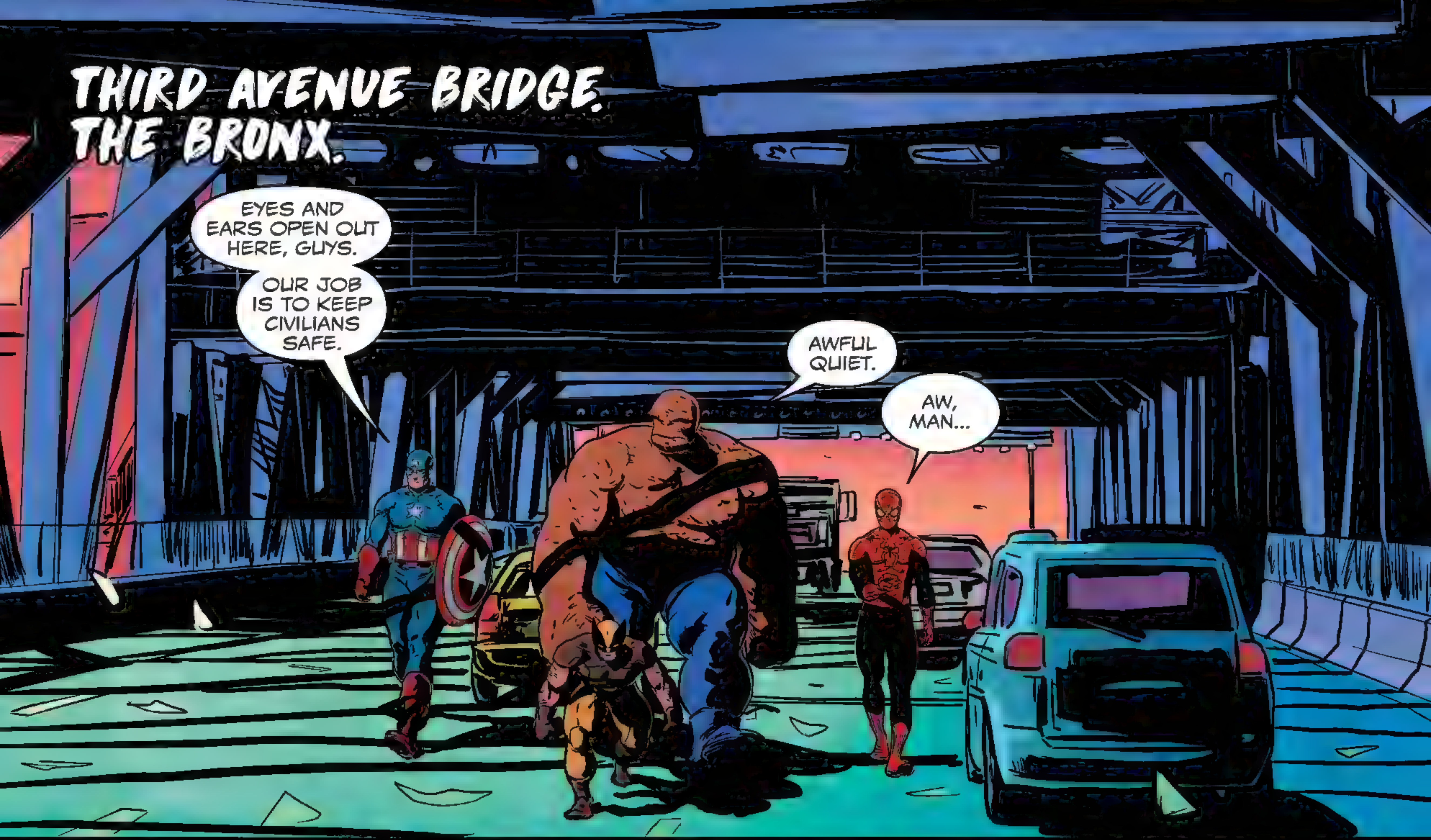
THAT SLIGHT
HESITATION TOLD
ME EVERYTHING.

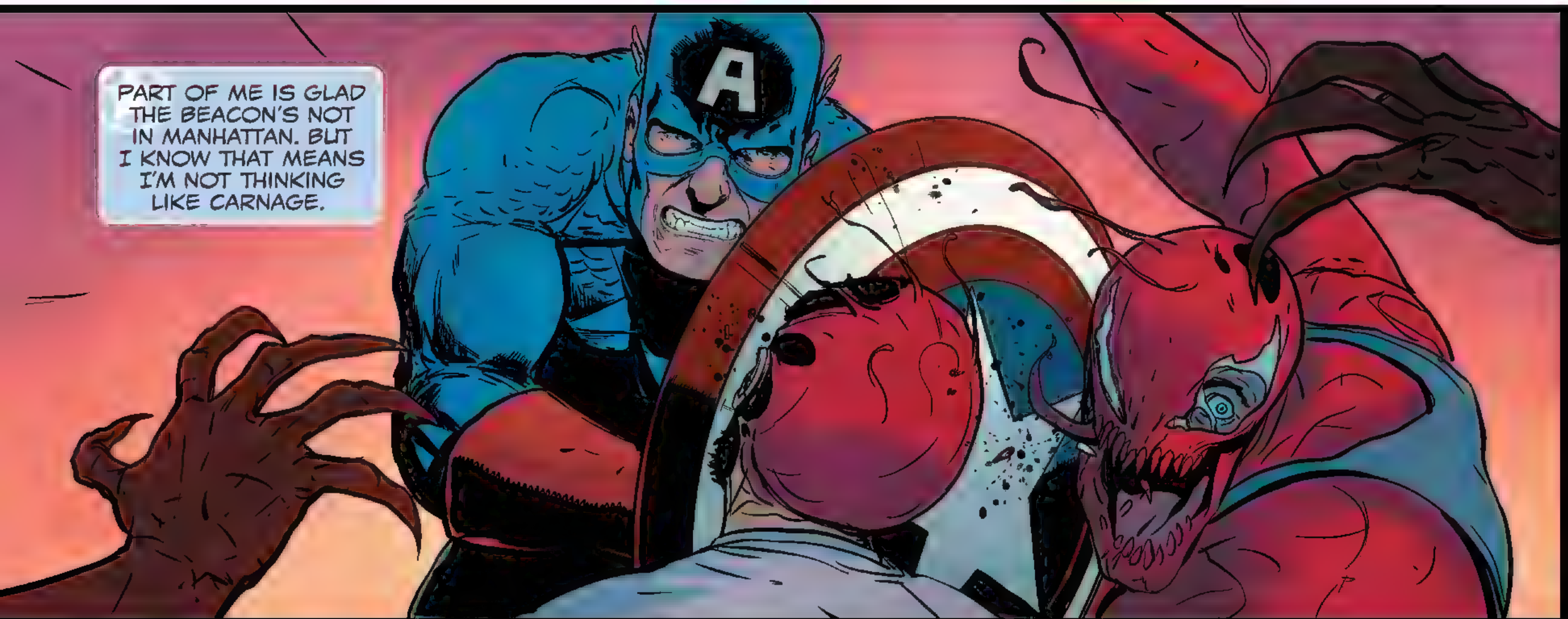


THIS IS A
ONE-WAY
TRIP.

AND I'M IN
IT ALONE.

THIRD AVENUE BRIDGE. THE BRONX.





PART OF ME IS GLAD
THE BEACON'S NOT
IN MANHATTAN. BUT
I KNOW THAT MEANS
I'M NOT THINKING
LIKE CARNAGE.



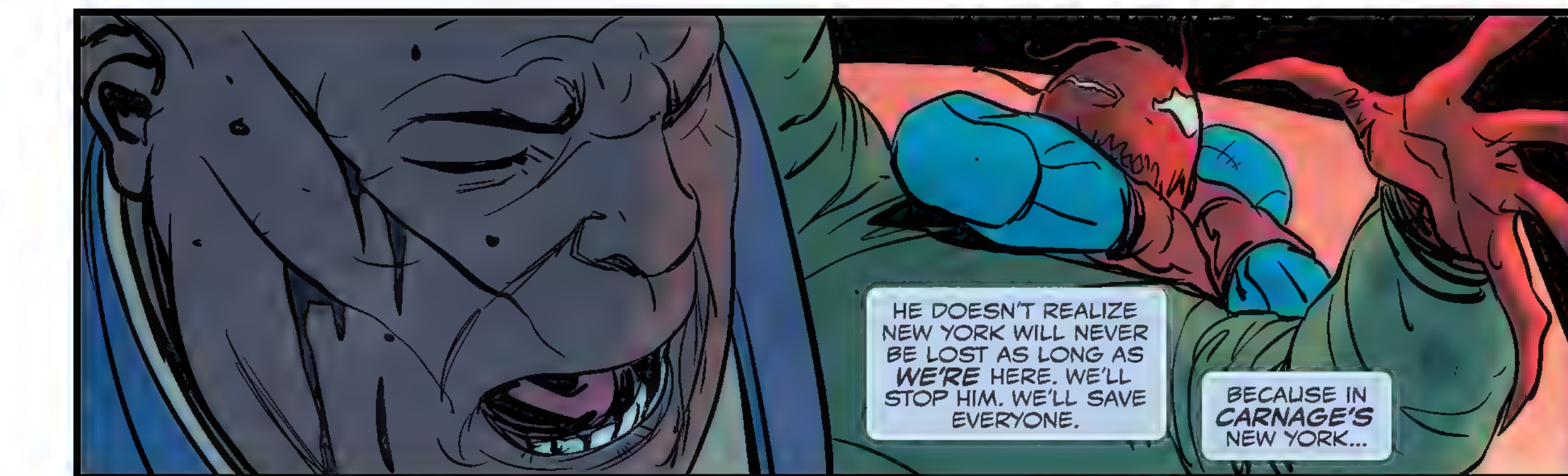
THERE'S A REASON
CLETUS KASADY IS
DOING ALL THIS. HE
WANTS US TO BELIEVE
NEW YORK IS LOST.



HE WANTS US TO LOSE
HOPE. BUT HE'S ALWAYS
BEEN DELUSIONAL.

EVEN IF THIS TIME
HE'S GUIDED BY
SOME STRANGE
SENSE OF HALLOWED
BELIEF IN A GOD.

HIS VERSION
OF FAITH.



HE DOESN'T REALIZE
NEW YORK WILL NEVER
BE LOST AS LONG AS
WE'RE HERE. WE'LL
STOP HIM. WE'LL SAVE
EVERYONE.

BECAUSE IN
CARNAGE'S
NEW YORK...

Lexington

WE ARE
HOPE.

AND WE MEAN
MORE THAN
CARNAGE OR HIS
GOD EVER COULD.

STAY...

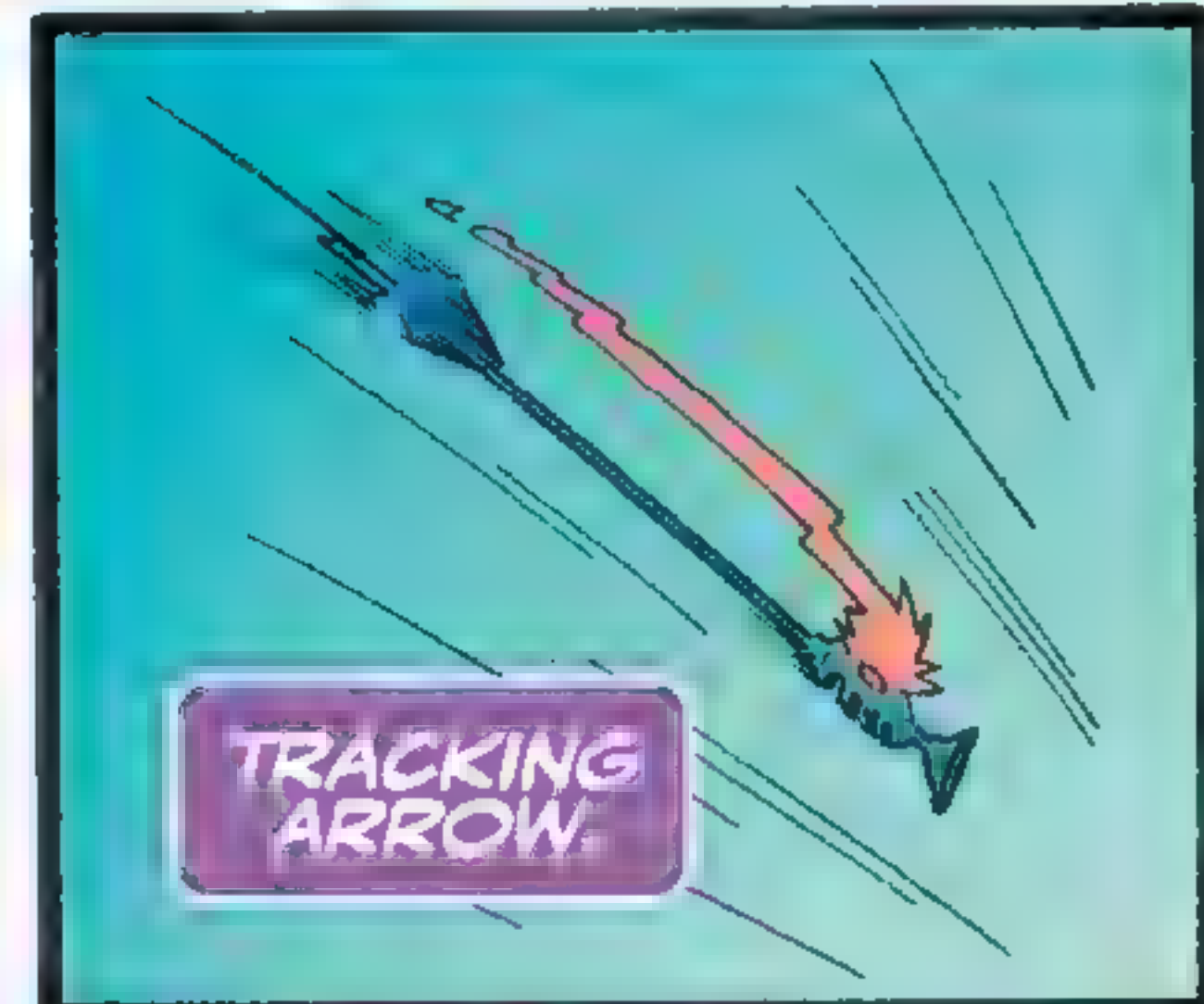
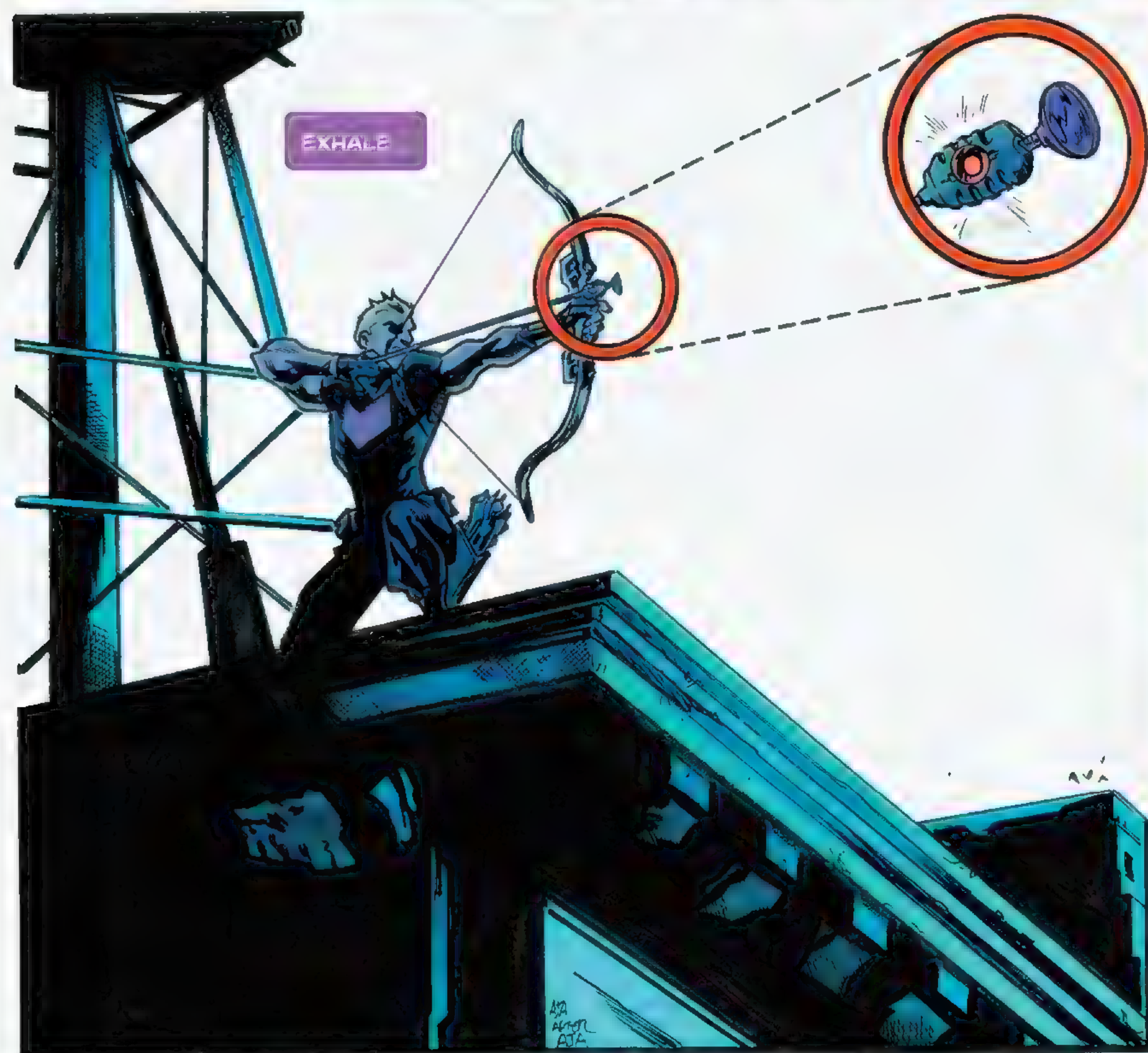
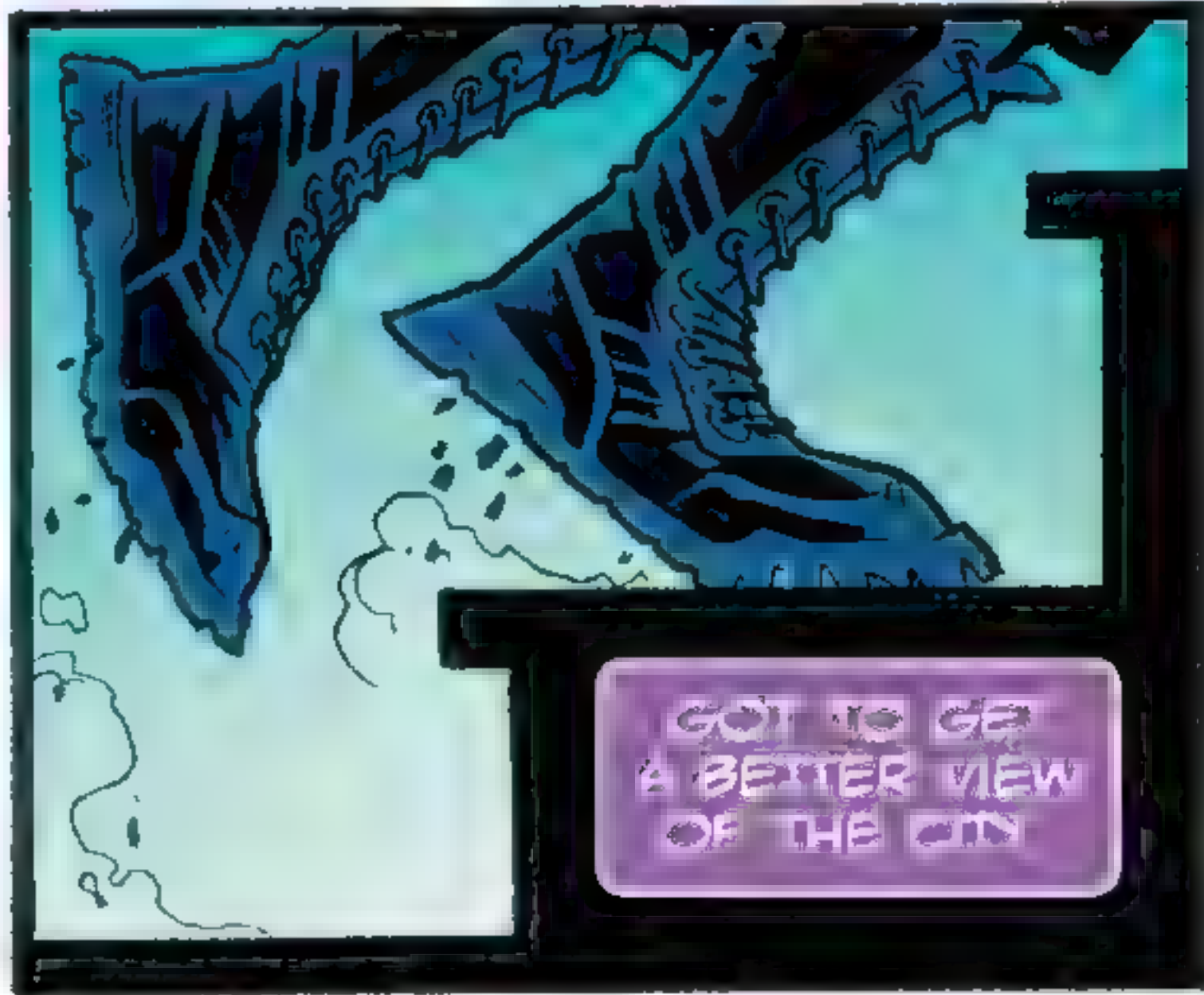
DOWN...

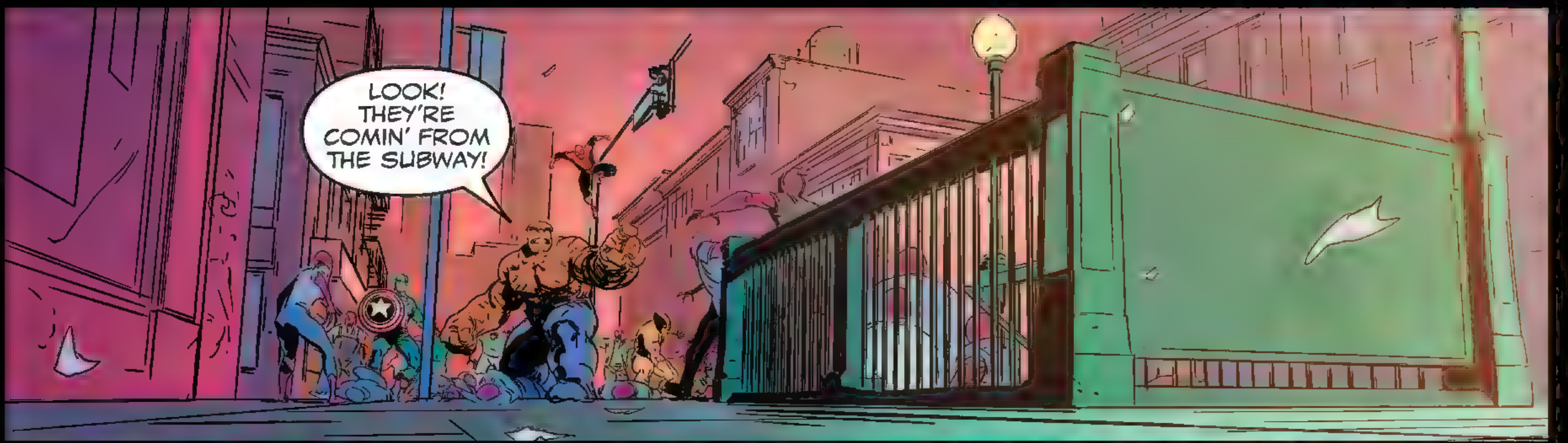
WOULDJA?!

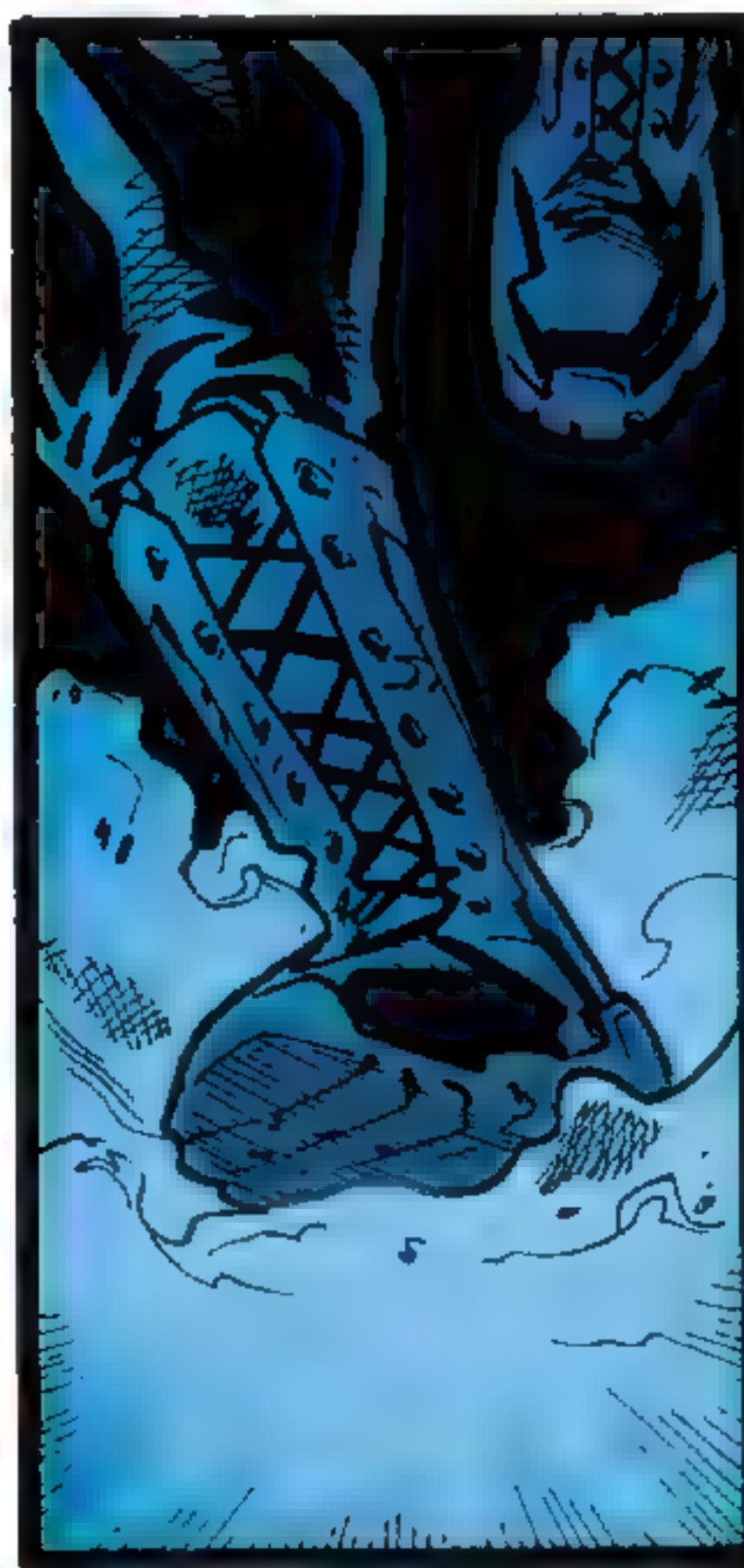
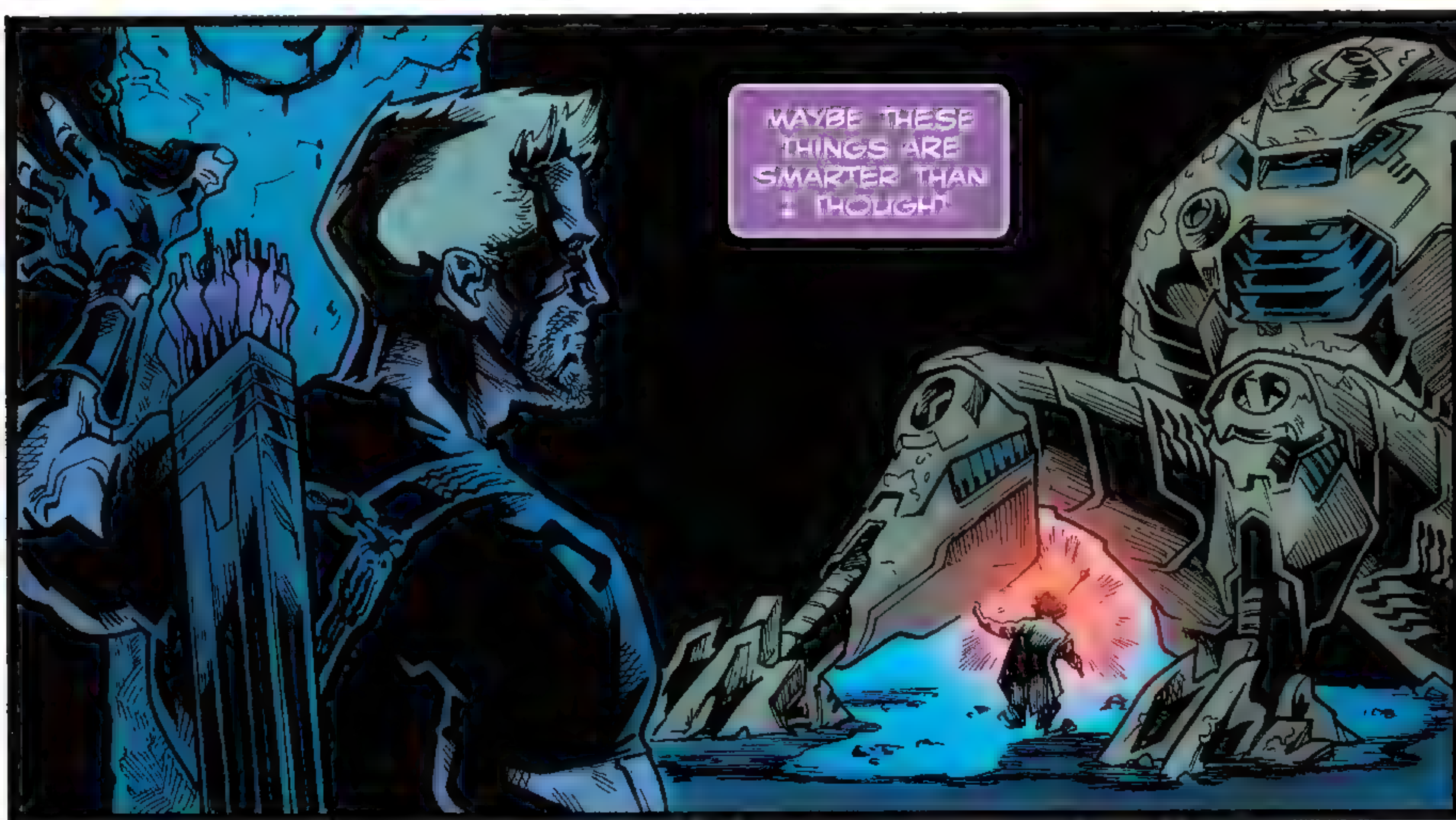


SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.

PLACE IS A GHOST TOWN.







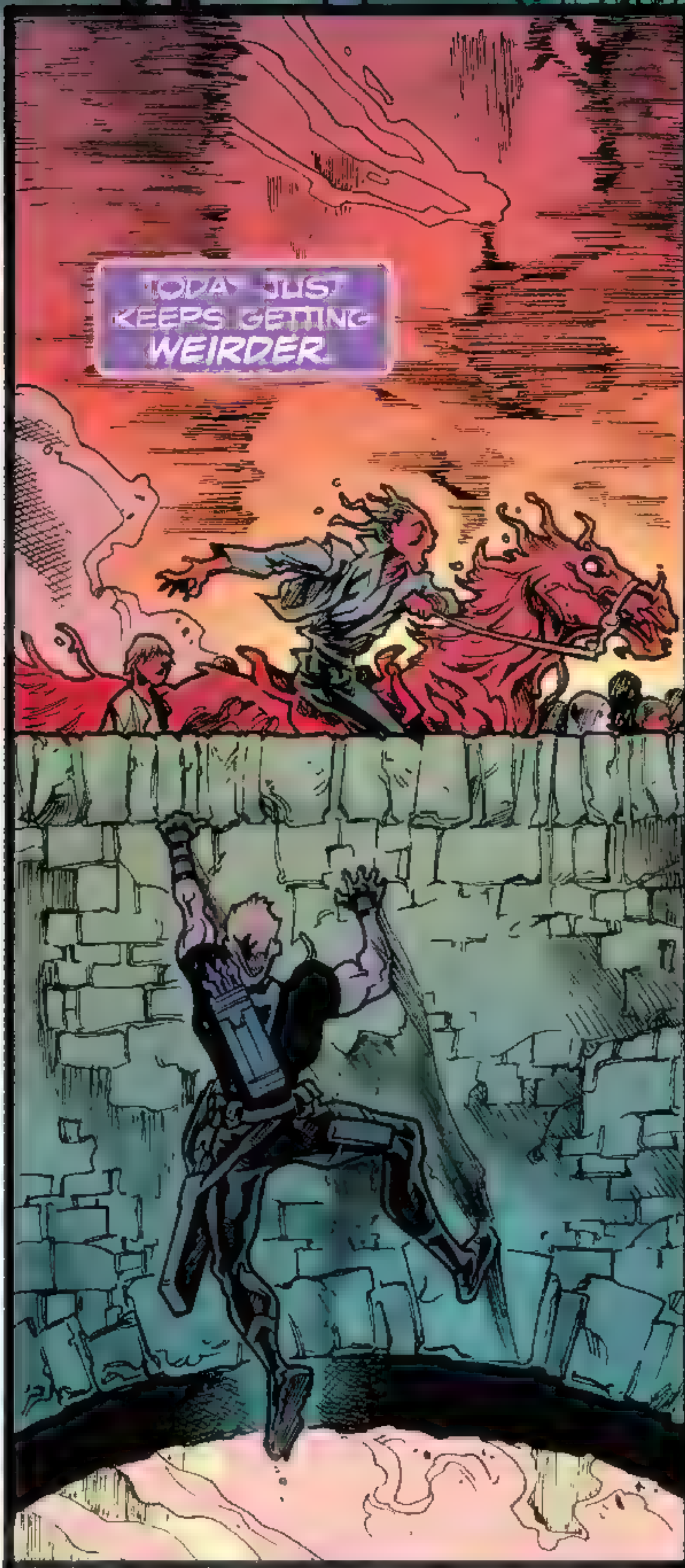


FOUND 'EM

IN SOME KINDA
UNDERGROUND
CITY BENEATH
SAN FRANCISCO

WHO'D A
THINK?*

* -GUESS HAWKEYE HASN'T
READ THE CLASSIC VENOM:
LETHAL PROTECTOR OR
JANUARY'S WEB OF VENOM:
VENOM UNLEASHED! --DEVIN



TODAY JUST
KEEPS GETTING
WEIRDER.

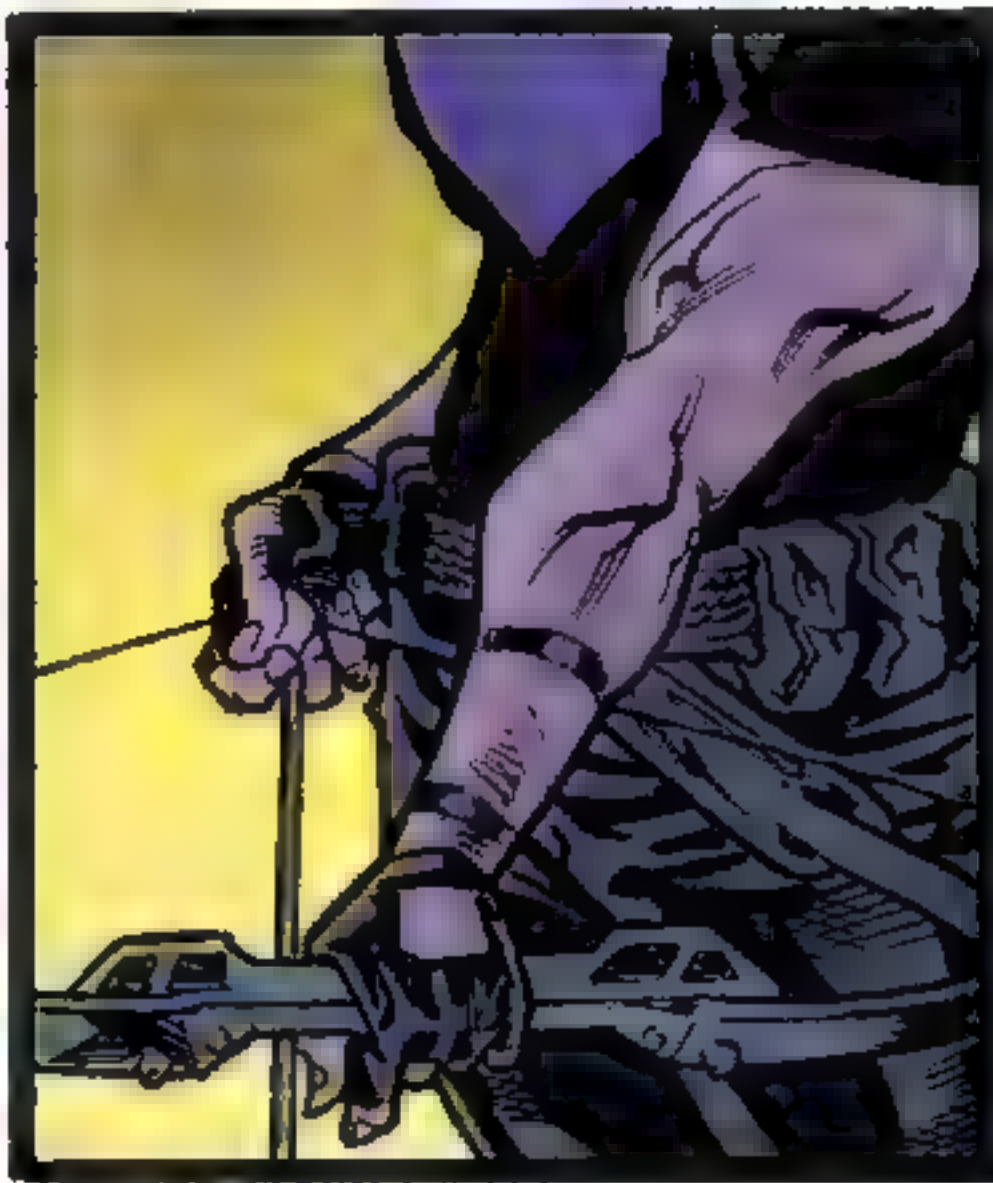
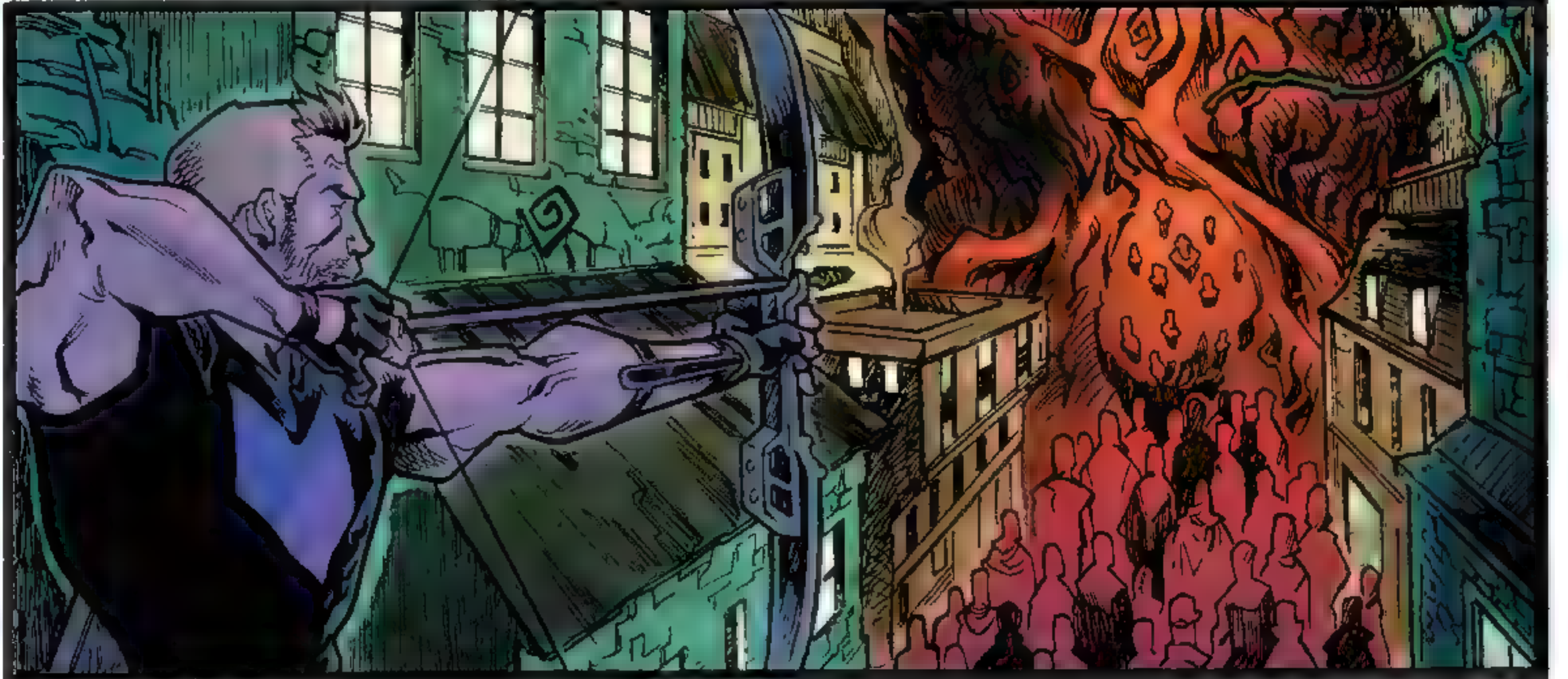
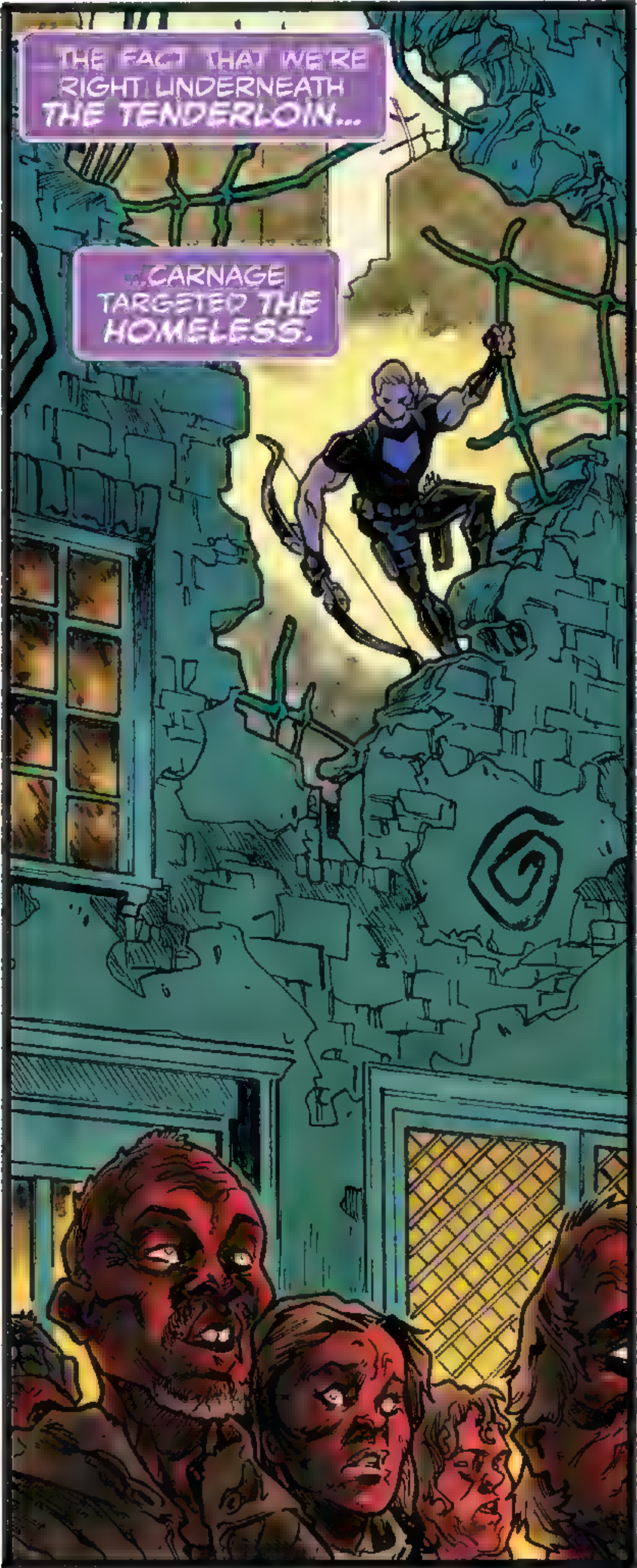


NOW I JUST GOT
TO FIND THE BEACON
AND SHUT IT DOWN.



BUT HOW CAN I
SHUT SOMETHING
DOWN IF I DON'T
KNOW WHAT IT
LOOKS LIKE?





MEANWHILE...

THAT'S THE
BEACON, ALL
RIGHT.

WE JUST
HAVE TO SHUT
IT DOWN.



THERE'S
PEOPLE IN
THERE.



THE ONE IN THE
CENTER. I CAN
SMELL IT. HE'S THE
ONE. WE END HIM.
WE END THIS.



BENNN
GRIMMM.

STEEEEE
ROOOOGERS.



SO WE
FIGHT.

BUT THERE'S
NO GLORY
IN THIS.

NO
HONOR.

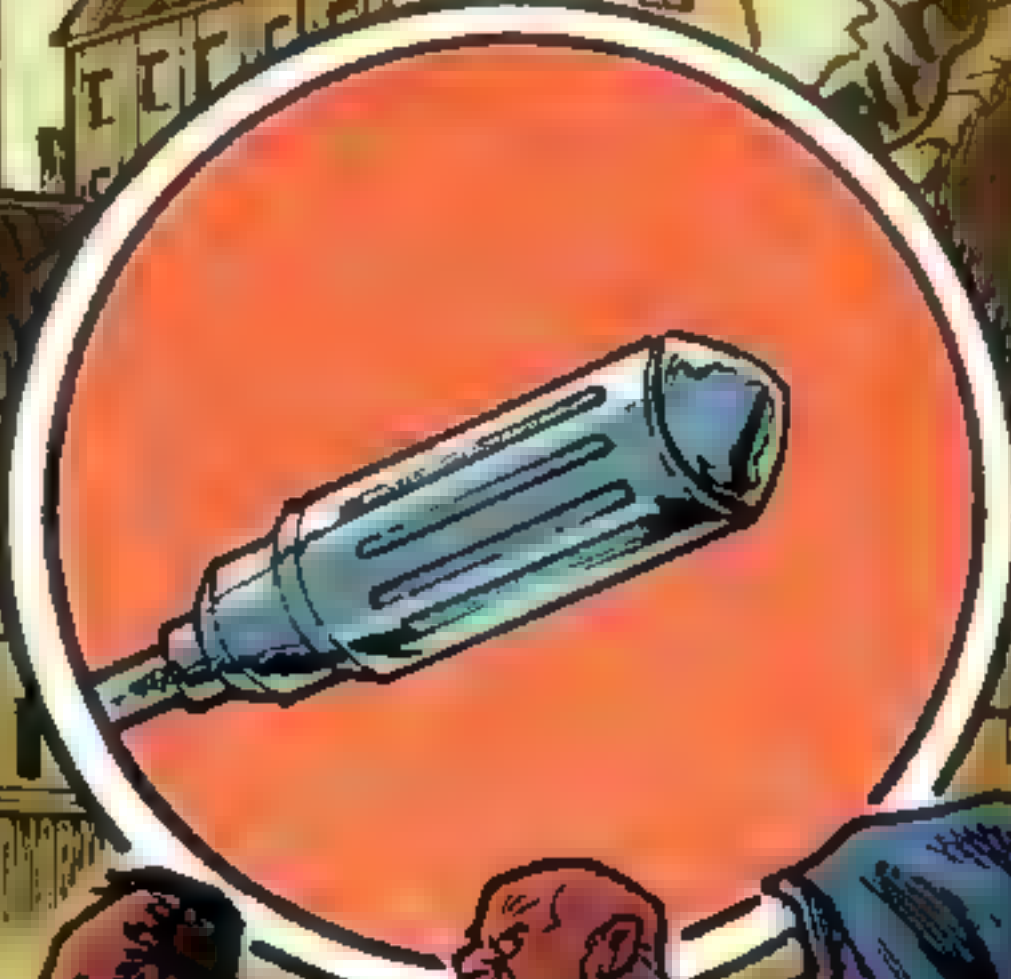
NO
MORALS.

ONLY
NECESSITY.





GOT TO
KEEP MY BACK
STRAIGHT



REGULATE MY
BREATHING



ACH



THERE'S THAT
STING IN MY
SPINE AGAIN

WHAT THE
@#\$%

WE
GROW THE
HIVE

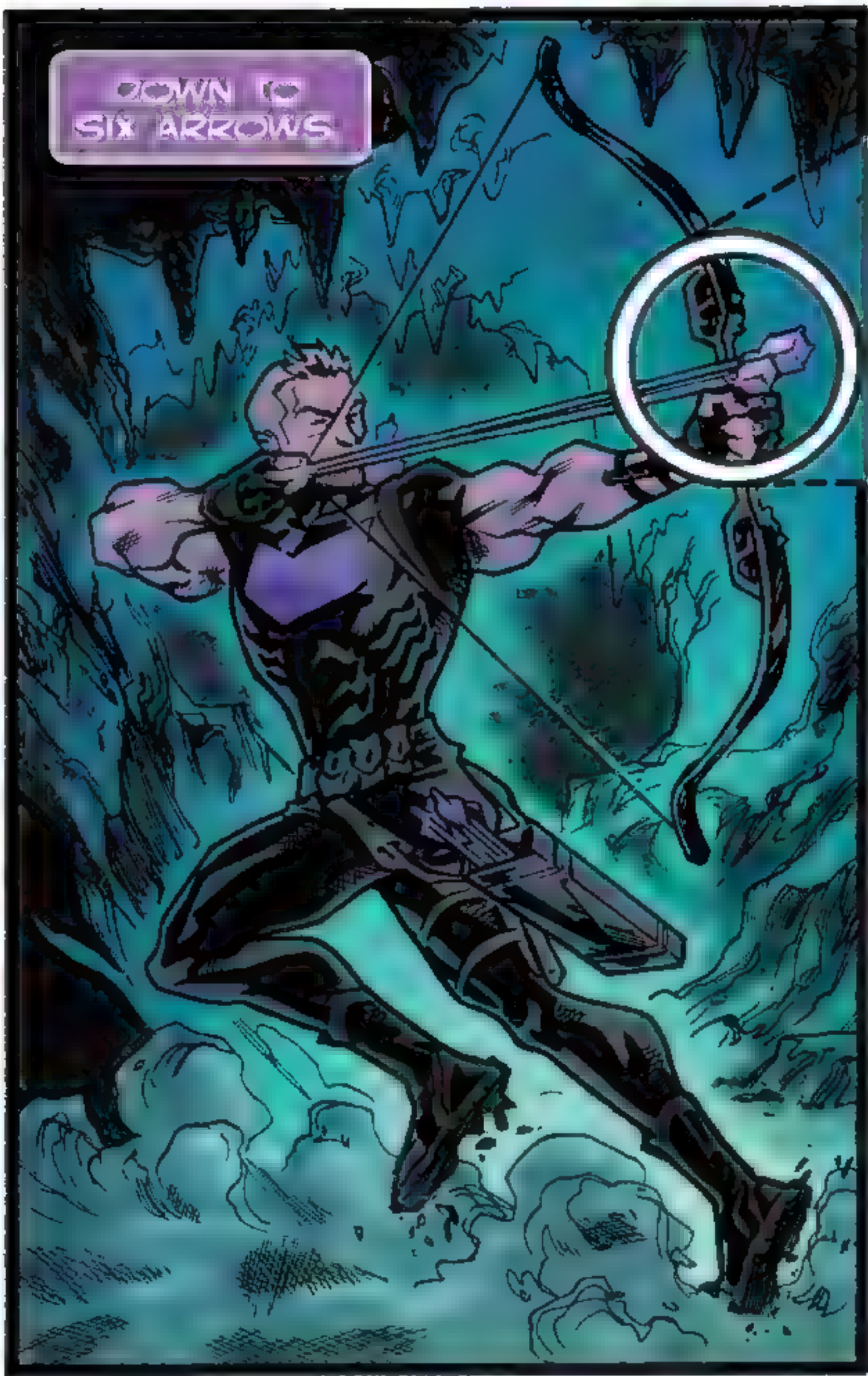
WE
SING OF
KNULL

WE
SURVIVE



WE ARE
DARKNESS,
BROUGHT
TO LIFE





DOWN TO SIX ARROWS



TWO ICE ARROWS



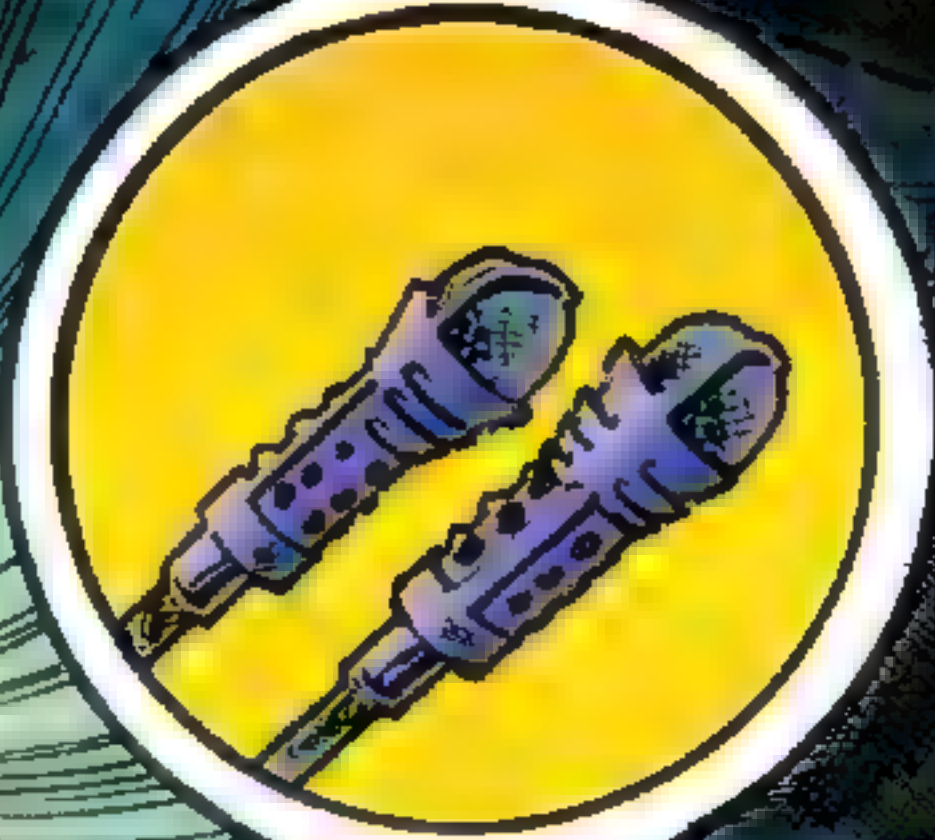
LOOKS LIKE I FOUND A USE FOR 'EM ON THE WEST COAST AFTER ALL



AACH



ONLY ONE WAY TO STOP HER WITHOUT KILLING HER. BUT WHAT THEN?



@#%&* T TWO SONIC ARROWS

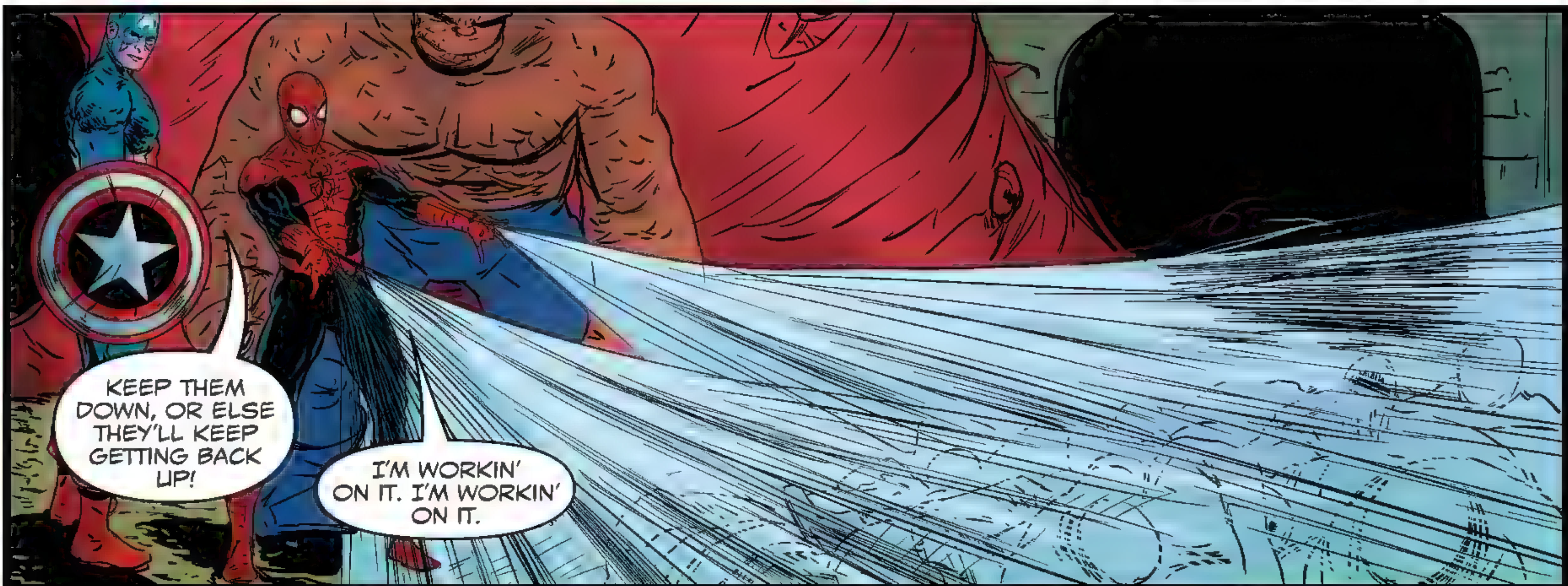


WE GROW THE HIVE!

WE SING OF

KNULL!

LOUDER THAN HELL BUT I'VE ALREADY GOT HEARING AIDS WHAT'S THE WORST THAT CAN HAPPEN





THIS IS EXACTLY WHY **CARNAGE** DID THIS. TO GET US **TALKIN'** INSTEAD OF **ACTIN'**.

WE GROOOOOW THE HIVE.

THERE'S GOT TO BE ANOTHER OPTION. LET'S GET HIM BACK TO **AVENGERS MOUNTAIN...**

THERE AIN'T TIME FOR THAT, CAP.



IF WE CAN GET THIS GUY BACK TO A HOSPITAL, THEY CAN PROBABLY **SAVE HIM**.

WHAT ARE WE WAITIN' FER, KID?

WE WON'T KILL A MAN JUST BECAUSE IT'S **CONVENIENT**.

WE NEED TO END THIS NOW.

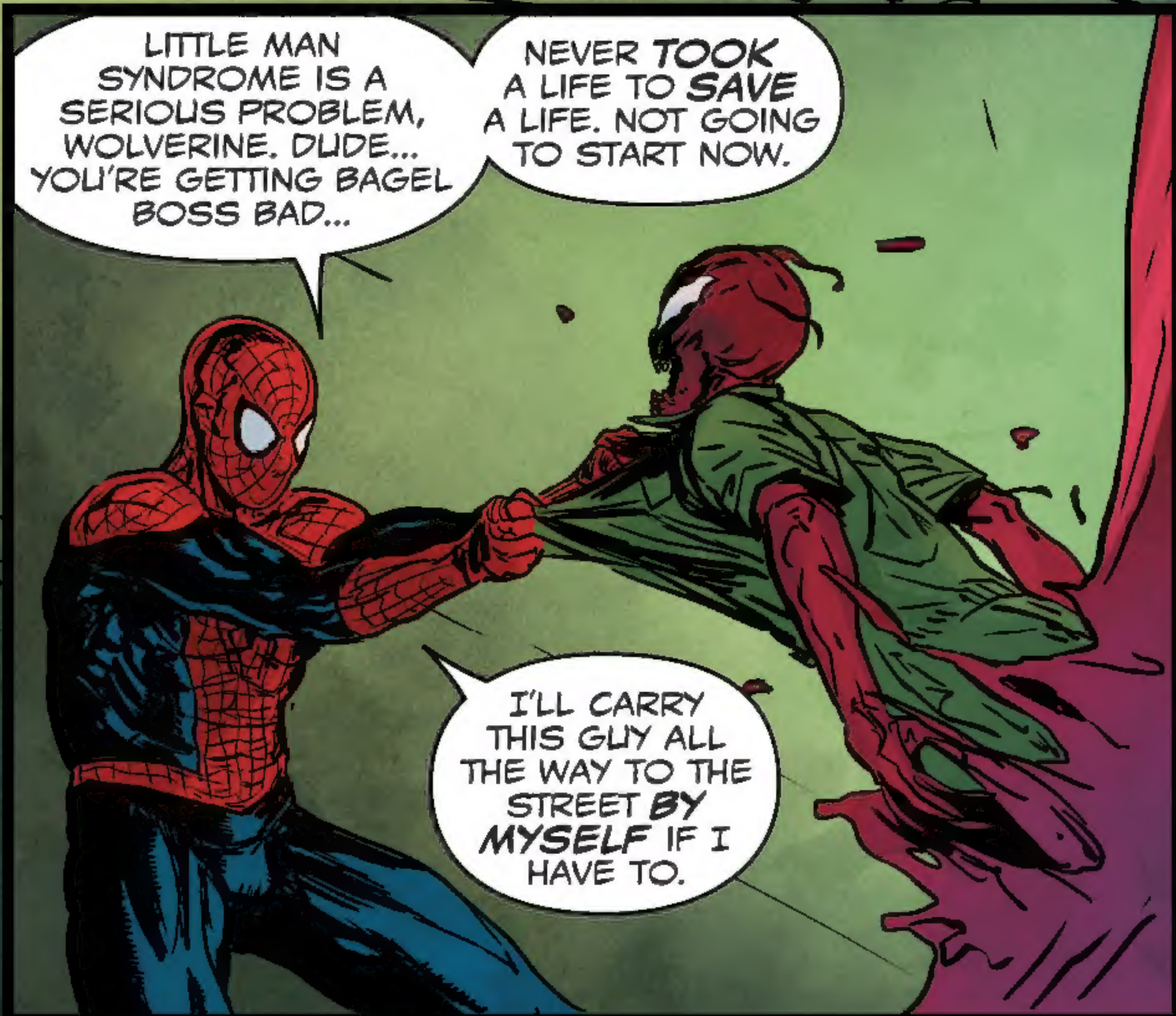


WE SIIIIING OF KNULL.

WE SUUUUURVIVE.



LOGAN, COOL IT.



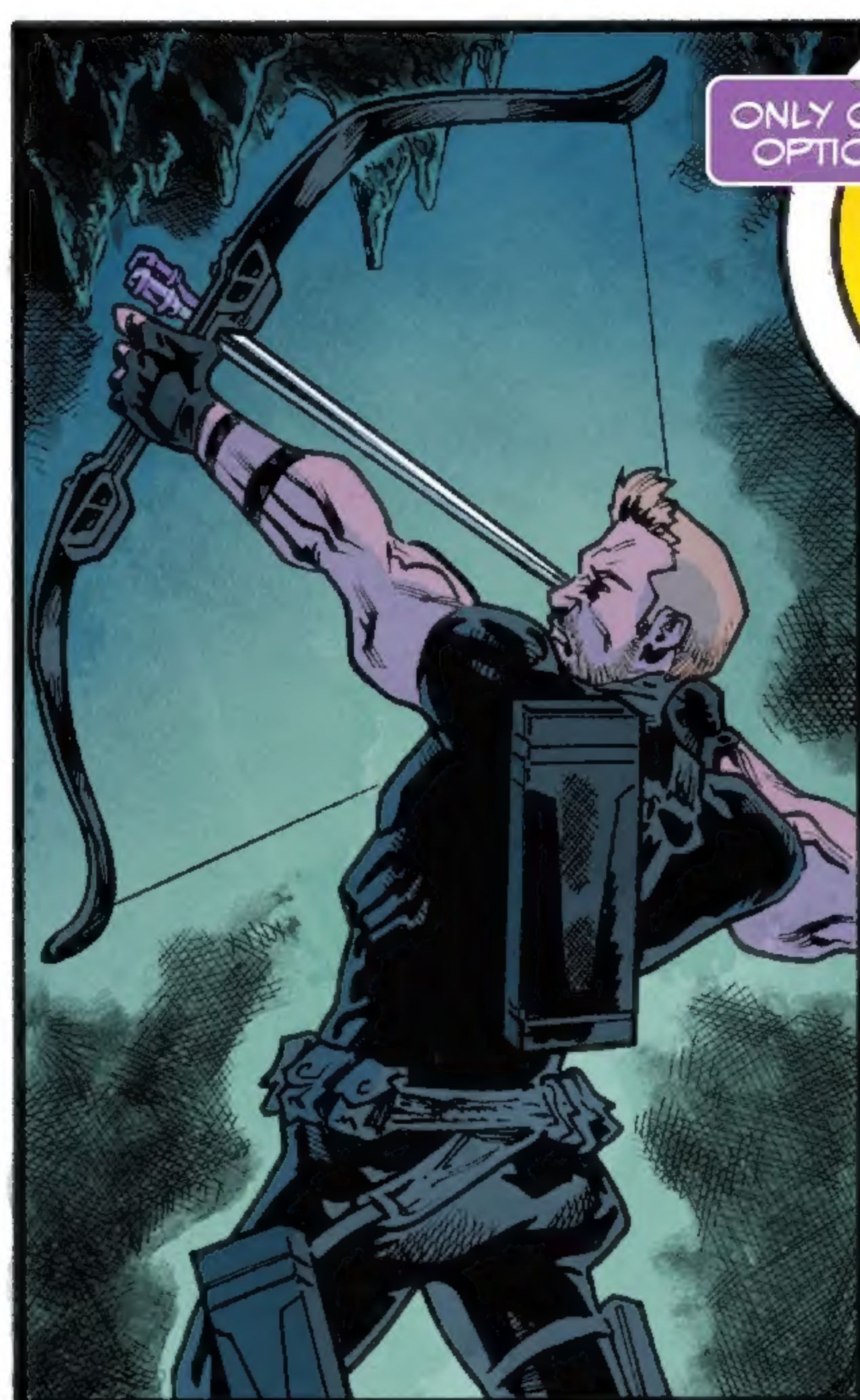
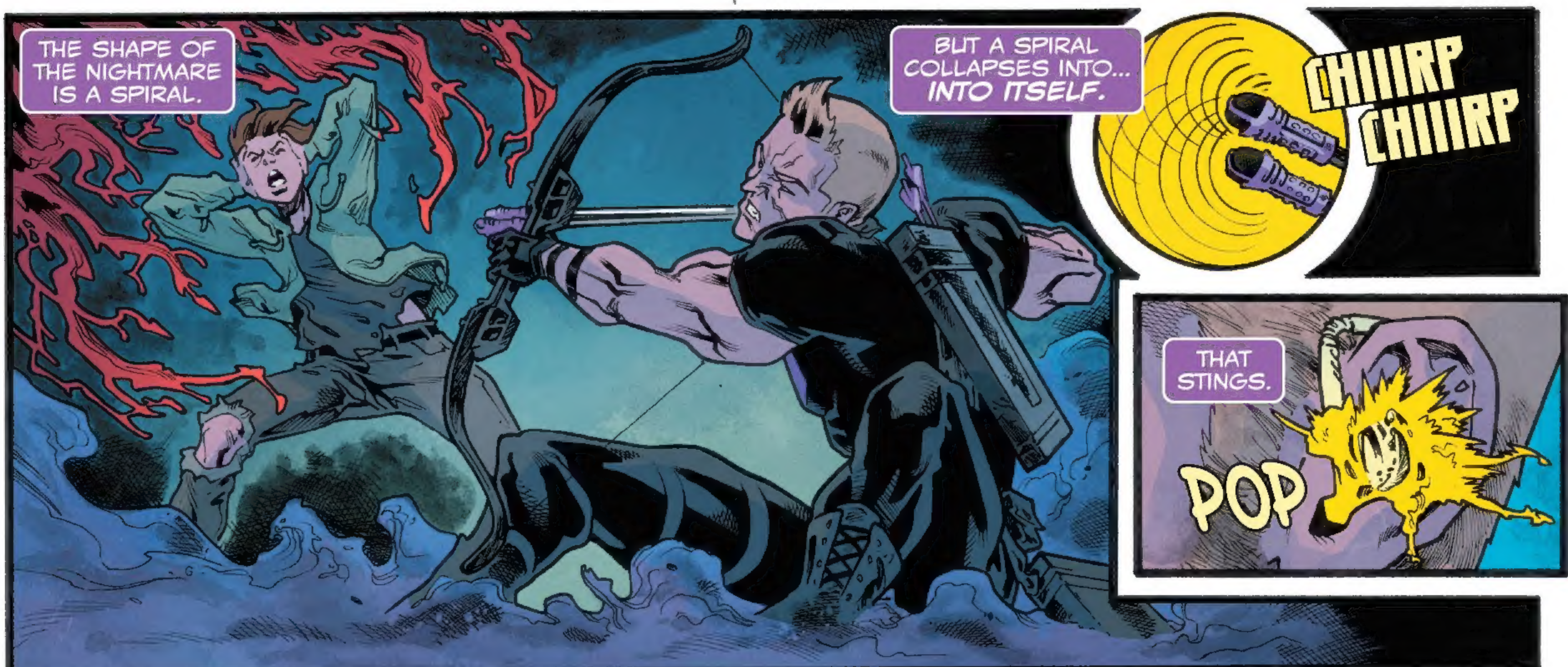
LITTLE MAN SYNDROME IS A SERIOUS PROBLEM, WOLVERINE. DUDE... YOU'RE GETTING BAGEL BOSS BAD...

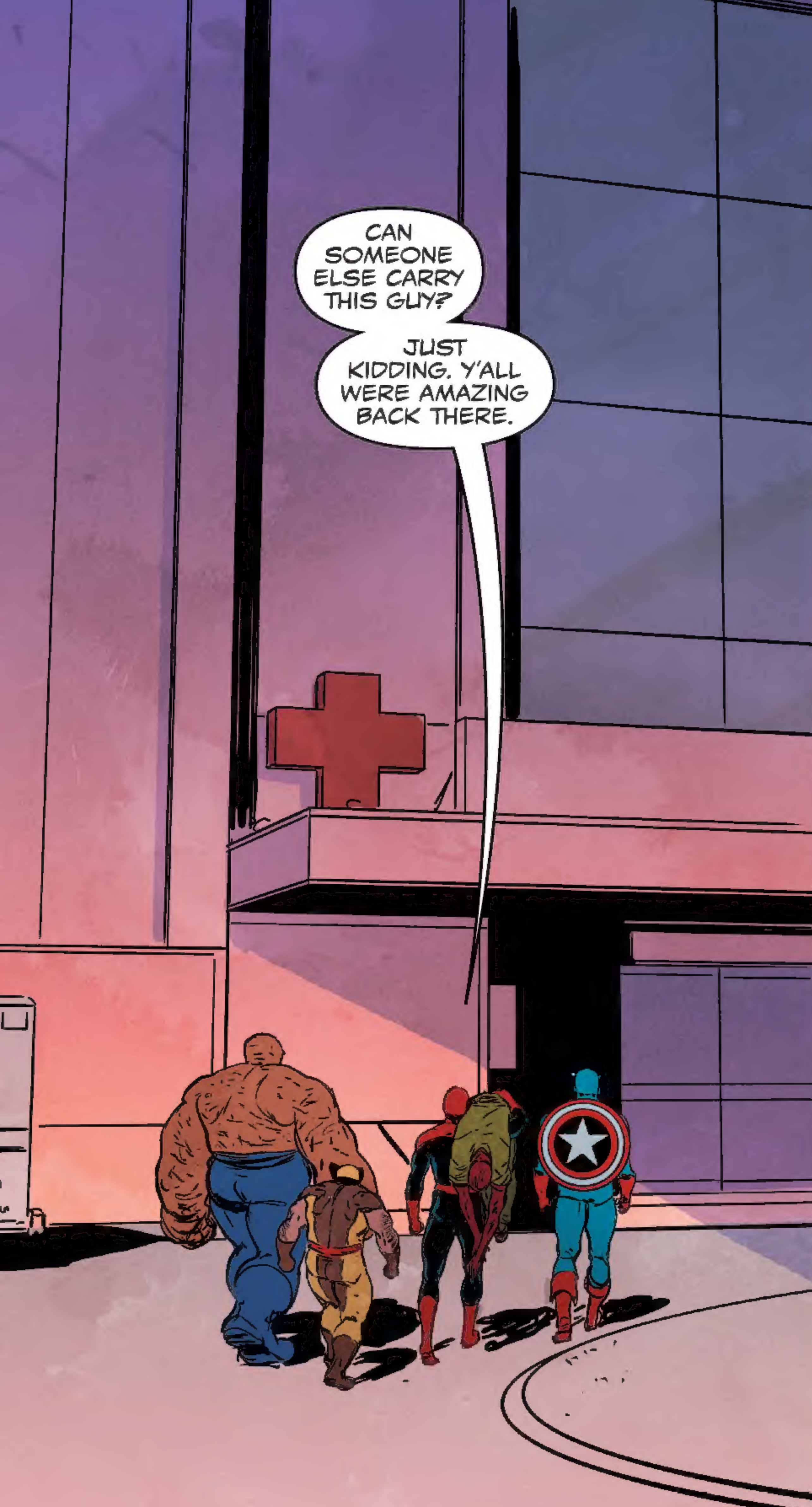
NEVER TOOK A LIFE TO **SAVE** A LIFE. NOT GOING TO START NOW.

I'LL CARRY THIS GUY ALL THE WAY TO THE STREET **BY MYSELF** IF I HAVE TO.



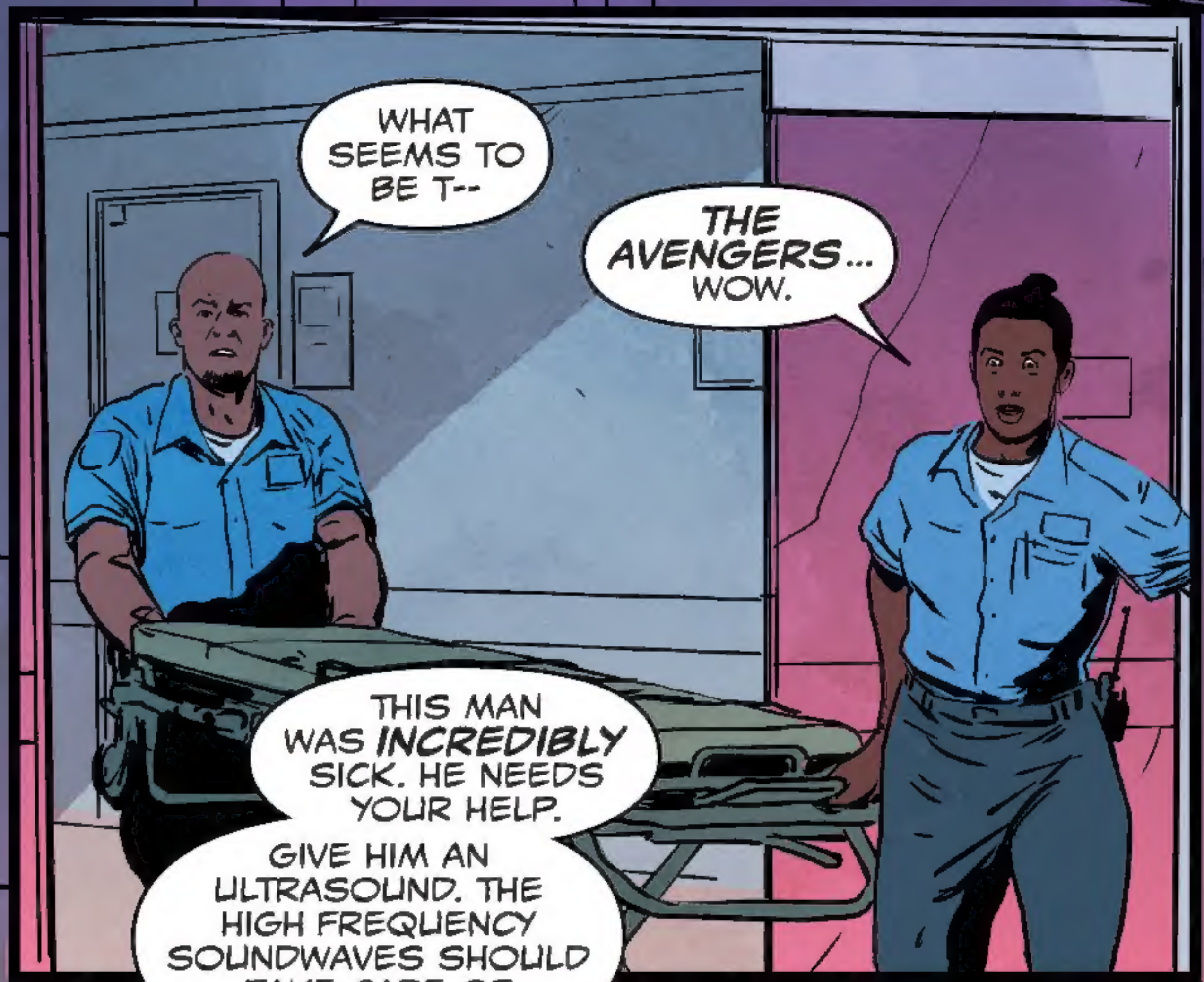
YOU WON'T.





CAN SOMEONE ELSE CARRY THIS GUY?

JUST KIDDING. Y'ALL WERE AMAZING BACK THERE.



WHAT SEEMS TO BE T--

THE AVENGERS... WOW.

THIS MAN WAS INCREDIBLY SICK. HE NEEDS YOUR HELP.

GIVE HIM AN ULTRASOUND. THE HIGH FREQUENCY SOUNDWAVES SHOULD TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING.



THERE WILL BE MORE LIKE HIM.

MAKE SURE ANYONE ELSE WHO COMES IN EXHIBITING THE SAME SYMPTOMS GETS THE SAME TREATMENT.

YES, SIR. CAPTAIN AMERICA, SIR.



HEEEY, WHAT ABOUT ME?

BLIP

THE BEACON ON THE WEST COAST--I THINK IT JUST WENT DOWN!

NOW WHAT?



NOW WE SEE IF WE CAN GET IN TOUCH WITH HAWKEYE, AND STOP CARNAGE ONCE AND FOR ALL.

REX STRICKLAND'S SAFE HOUSE VENOM HQ.

WITH THE
BEACONS DOWN
ON BOTH COASTS,
WE'RE CLOSE TO
ENDING THIS
NIGHTMARE.

AS SOON
AS VENOM'S
BACK, WE NEED TO
MOVE ON CARNAGE.
TAKE HIM DOWN
AND FINISH THIS
FOR GOOD.

IF THERE'S A SECOND
PART TO CONFRONTING
FEAR, TO CONQUERING
TERROR...

...IT'S BEING
CONTENT
WITH THE
UNKNOWN.

IT'S KNOWING THAT
SOMETIMES THE BEST
ANSWER YOU'LL GET AS
TO WHY SOMETHING
TERRIBLE HAPPENED...

...IS NO
ANSWER
AT ALL.

YOU HAVE TO LET
THE MYSTERY BE.

BUT THAT
PART I'M LESS
GOOD AT...

HEY, CAP.
HOW YA
HOLDING
LUP?

ACTUALLY,
CAN'T HEAR YA
ANYWAY. JOB'S
DONE...

...AND I'M
ON MY WAY TO
NEW YORK.

TO BE
CONTINUED...
IN **VENOM**
#19!